

## **President's Report**

**April 2017**

It appears spring has arrived! With this beautiful weather, the College's attention turns to preparing for the pomp and circumstance associated with numerous honorific events and celebrations. Graduation is less than one month away, with a record number of graduates attending, and we will be conferring well over 3,000 degrees and certificates. Excitement is growing for the big day!

Even as we prepare for graduation, our eye is already on summer and fall enrollment. While we believe we will grow enrollment through enhanced persistence strategies, overall growth will only be enhanced by sourcing more adult students seeking an online quality educational experience. Recently, we have had numerous conversations with a couple of corporate partners who we believe can help us with our overall enrollment picture. One partner, AcademixDirect, is sourcing students for our Accounting program. The other partner, Pearson, is close to providing us a contractual arrangement that would provide corporate sponsored adult students who seek ongoing certificates and degrees aligned with business-related programs. We are targeting fall as the launch for this partnership. Through both these partnerships, the Harper brand will be extended nationally, and we will provide quality degrees to ambitious adults who wish to enhance their skills and careers. We look forward to these opportunities.

As this report was written, yet another glimmer of hope is coming out of Springfield regarding some funding for higher education in Illinois. The House has passed a measure that is now going to the Senate that could provide \$85 million to community colleges with equalization grants and some base support. To date, MAP funding has not been addressed. I am traveling to Springfield this week and hope to have up-to-date information to share at the Board meeting on Wednesday.

Great news from the athletic front, the Harper Water Polo team has placed first in the nation in the Collegiate Water Polo Association League. Comprised of major universities and just a few community colleges, the Harper team defeated all other teams at the national tournament. We will introduce and celebrate the team's success at the May Board meeting.

A lot has occurred on the campus since the February Board meeting. A synopsis is below:

### ***Student Success***

- The student body held its annual leadership elections for the 2017-2018 academic year, with voting available online via the Student Portal. A total of 516 individual voters took part in the online election process, which represents a 3.6% increase in turnout over last year's participation totals. The newly elected Student Trustee is Niki Safakas, who will take her seat on the Board at

the April 26 meeting. Sulayman Qazi was elected President of the Student Government Association (SGA), and Christine Hanna was elected Vice President.

- During the 2017-2018 academic year, five Women's Program participants received the Rotary Club Fishing Well Scholarship. This scholarship has assisted Women's Program participants with tuition for their courses and provided opportunities for mentorship and community connections.
- Harper's new Center for Student Veterans & Military-Connected Students opened to students on March 27. First reports from students and visitors indicate that the space is comfortable, located conveniently near the Cockrell Dining Room, and will be a useful addition to serve our military-connected students as a place they can gather and gain access to special services.
- One Million Degrees is wrapping up the semester with two big events. The annual Speed Networking Event is scheduled for April 18 at the Garlands of Barrington; 60 students and 35 volunteers will be participating. The last scholar development session will be in May where approximately 30 graduates will be recognized. Fifty-two students have been provisionally accepted for fall 2017, with an expected 30 more due to be accepted. Recruitment efforts will continue into the summer.
- All openings have been filled for the following 2017 limited enrollment degree programs: Dental Hygiene, Diagnostic Cardiac Sonography, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Nursing (RN), Radiologic Technology and the Summer Practical Nursing Certificate program.
- On February 25, the Department of Engineering hosted Explore Engineering, a new informational event to expose area high school students, their families and high school counselors and instructors to the engineering programs at Harper. The event included a keynote address given by Dr. Vladimir Goncharoff, engineering lecturer at UIC and a Harper Distinguished Alumni. Breakout sessions included presentations and panel discussions with Harper faculty, current students, Harper alumni in the Pathways to University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign engineering program, parents of Harper engineering students, and Harper student clubs. In addition, transfer advisors from UIC, UIUC and NIU were also present. Explore Engineering was organized by engineering faculty Dr. Deb Damcott, David Lavan and Chris Athanassopoulos.
- On February 25, Harper hosted the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics Regional High School Math Competition. More than 300 students and coaches from nine area high schools (Barrington, Conant, Downers Grove North, Fremd, Elk Grove Village, Lake Park, Palatine, Prospect and Schaumburg) were in attendance. Students were tested in algebra, geometry, and calculus. Top performing teams and individuals advanced to the state competition at the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign. The event was organized by math faculty Kyle Knee and Diana Lund.
- On March 4, more than 750 students from 17 area high and 12 middle schools were on campus to participate in the Harper Regional Science Competition. Students compete in a variety of life and physical sciences and engineering events such as anatomy and physiology, experimental design, forensics, and hovercraft. Top performing teams advanced to the state competition at the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign. The event organizers include faculty Dr. Karen Dailey, Raeghan Graessle, and Julie Ellefson.
- The 109<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Illinois State Academy of Science was held at Harper College. Approximately 200 professors, undergraduate and graduate students from throughout the state were on campus for the event. Attendees enjoyed a banquet Friday evening followed by a keynote presentation by Benjamin Kant, entrepreneur, founder and CEO of Metropolitan Farms.

Participants also had the opportunity to tour Metropolitan Farms on Saturday afternoon. This is the first time in recent years that the annual meeting has been hosted at a community college. The event was organized by chemistry professor Roger House.

- The high school counselors were introduced to “Who Wants to be a Dual Credit Millionaire?” during the spring counselor update meeting on March 1 at Harper College. More than 51,000 students were served by dual credit in the State of Illinois last year. Harper held 335 sections of dual credit courses, with 125 instructors over the 2016-2017 school year.
- First of its kind “Harper Bound Preview Nights” sessions were held Tuesday and Thursday throughout the semester. These sessions are designed for current high school seniors who have already applied to Harper College and would like to learn more about their next steps.
- On February 16, Admissions Outreach participated in an “Ask the Experts” panel discussion at Rolling Meadows High School. The event attracted more than 250 students along with representatives from a number of colleges and universities from Illinois and surrounding states.
- Refrigeration and Air Conditioning (RAC) Program Coordinator, Jose A. Vital, presented at the 2017 HVAC Excellence Educators and Trainers Conference on Green Awareness and Renewable Energies on March 28. The session was presented in Spanish to the Latin American attendees.
- Congratulations to Jennifer Smith, Associate Professor and Instructor in the Nursing Program, appointed as a National League for Nursing Ambassador. The program’s mission is to increase retention by meeting the needs of members, both individuals and agencies through interaction with fellow nurse educators and faculty.
- Congratulations to Kathleen Fischer, Assistant Professor and Instructor in the Nursing Program, on her selection to participate in the Organization for Associate Degree Nursing (OADN) for an international experience to learn about facilitating global outreach for student participation. Kathy will be traveling with the OADN to a remote community of Guatemala for ten days in mid-July to provide health care to approximately 500 individuals of all ages.

### ***Facilities Management***

- Grants were received to convert meeting room A137a in Building A into a space for student veterans. Construction is complete for the Center for Student Veterans & Military-Connected Students.
- Classroom X228A in Building X was converted into a new Surgical Tech Suite for the Nursing Department. The existing Virtual Hospital was renovated to address sound and observation requirements. The construction is complete.
- Classrooms X236A and X236B in Building X will be converted into a new Physical Therapy Lab for the Health Careers Department. Construction has begun and is scheduled to be substantially complete in May 2017.
- The Building P Chiller Plant will be expanded to serve Buildings A, C and W, in addition to the currently connected Buildings F, L, P and R. Construction is substantially complete. Testing has started and will be complete in May 2017.

- 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. Construction is scheduled to start in May 2017 and be substantially complete by November 2017.

### ***Information Technology***

- The Center for Digital Education (CDE) announced the winners of its 2016-2017 Digital Community Colleges. The CDE analyzes how community colleges use a range of technologies to improve services to students, faculty, staff and communities at large. Harper College finished second in the national rankings.
- The Banner database was upgraded from Oracle v. 11.2 to v.12c, which has advanced capabilities that promote better performance, increased scalability, and easier data management. For Harper College, this translates into significant cost savings, reduced risk, and increased flexibility.
- The academic network was fully migrated to the new core switch platform. The new platform will provide faster network speed and better reliability for the academic environment. The learning management system, BlackBoard, was migrated to the latest software platform.
- The Telecom team worked with AT&T to convert from a copper connection to a fiber optic connection for all incoming and outgoing calls. The fiber optic cable will assist Harper by increasing our flexibility for growth at peak call times.
- During the month of March, the Student Systems team completed three requested improvements to the Harper student onboarding process. The student composite test history web page was updated in order to begin tracking of student SAT scores. The Testing Center updated their process for students who are required to take ALEKS math placement exams. The Student Systems team made modifications to Banner to accommodate this change. The Admissions Outreach office updated their process and now requires all new degree-seeking students to schedule an appointment with an Admissions Outreach Advisor to review the student's submitted application and the student's next steps.

### ***Human Resources***

- Paula Saltzman, Diversity Recruiter, represented Harper College at Hanover Township's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Job Fair on March 29, 2017. The job fair was co-hosted by Hanover Township, State Representative Fred Crespo, and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) and Work Net. The job fair was marketed to veterans, as well as the general public.

### ***Advancement***

- The McGrath Awards committee selected Larry Moats as the recipient for the James McGrath Award. Recipients are chosen based on criteria established by the James McGrath family. The Award was established as a tribute to former President McGrath. The committee selects individuals based on those who have unselfishly given time, effort or funds to uphold the excellence of the institution. As the recipient of this award Larry will be honored at Harper College's Honors Convocation ceremony on May 9 in the Performing Arts Center. At the ceremony Larry will be asked to provide a 2-3 minute speech on the importance of community service.

- The Harper College 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala planning is well underway. The event will be held on Saturday, September 16, 2017 at the Priester Aviation hangars at Chicago Executive Airport. As of April 14, 2017, \$791,000 in sponsorship income has been secured for the Gala. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Harper College Promise Program.
- Harper College Publishing Services (Print Shop) received the 2017 Impression Award for Collaborative Service from the Association of College and University Printers (ACUP). The team was recognized for the project “Actually, Harper’s Kinda Cool.” This booklet started as a portfolio project created by Harper student photographers, with 50 copies printed for their use. It grew into a multi-use print and digital publication used to engage high school students, their parents, new students, donors and employees. Along with Harper, the following institutions were also recognized in this category: California State University, San Bernardino, Oregon State University, Pennsylvania State University, Princeton University, Sacramento State, University of Maine and Yale University. You may view the booklet online at: <http://goforward.harpercollege.edu/services/photographers/index.php>
- In an effort to increase faculty/staff understanding of the President’s Priorities and Harper’s Strategic Directions, Internal Communication has been exploring different formats and additional touch points outside the President’s twice-yearly all campus meetings, for disseminating information.

In April, the inaugural episode of “Perspectives with…” was released which featured Dr. Ken Ender. This 12- minute video employs an interview format with Associate Professor Dave Richmond serving as the host. Topics covered included the “communiversity” concept, partnerships and the plans for Building M. Future episodes will include interviews with other members of Executive Council and President’s Cabinet to support a broad understanding and vision for the different areas of the College.

Embedded in the video is a pulse survey designed to gather feedback on the usefulness of the information and to gauge the level of understanding of the key topics. The video is currently posted on the intranet (HIP) and was featured in the weekly faculty/staff e-newsletter (InsideHarper). The results of the survey, combined with click through rates, will help us evaluate the effectiveness of this new vehicle and format.

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

- The 2016-17 Personal Assessment of the College Environment (PACE) Survey is conducted every three years with the most recent administration in November 2016 – survey results are now available. The PACE Survey ascertains employees perspective about the organizational climate in the areas of institutional structure, supervisory relationships, teamwork, and student focus. The results from the PACE survey provide a snapshot of how our institution is performing, highlights areas for growth and identifies opportunities for improvement. Results indicate that employees are most satisfied with climate as it relates to student focus and supervisory relationships. Items employees identified as least satisfied with are related to institutional structure. Overall, the climate of Harper College is positive, with a mean score of 3.70. This score places the College in the Consultative System, indicating positive aspects of the climate with room for improvement.
- On March 3, the International Studies and Programs Committee and the Learning Assessment Committee held a joint event, the *Assessing Global and Intercultural Learning Conference*. More than 90 employees and external guests attended sessions that merged global and intercultural learning, student learning assessment, and faculty development topics in this unique experience. The conference highlighted a Harper panel of faculty and staff who discussed how they integrate

assessment into their work for students entitled “If We Can Do It, You Can Do It: Strategies for Implementing Assessment Across Curricula.”

- Faculty and staff from various areas of the College came together for a day long summit to focus on the College's strategic directions: Inclusion, Engagement and Achievement. Participants included Strategic Plan Goal Leaders and Goal Team representatives, Strategic Planning and Accountability Committee members, President's Cabinet, Faculty Senate Officers, Grant representatives, and Achieving the Dream Coaches. Summit activities included updates from the strategic goal teams, the examination of Harper data related to the strategic directions through a World Café activity, an interactive game to experience the barriers to completion many students face, and insights from our Achieving the Dream coaches, Dr. Mary Fifield and Dr. Davis Jenkins. The overall goal of the summit was to engage attendees with information to be shared and used in developing strategies that improve Inclusion, Engagement and Achievement at Harper College.

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

- The annual Student Employee Appreciation lunch was held on April 20. Calvin Byrd from the Office of Financial Assistance, Veterans Services, was selected as the Student Employee of the Year. Calvin is a veteran from the Marine Corp who is pursuing a degree in engineering. His supervisor, Courtney Friedlund presented Calvin as a valuable member of their staff who “is incredibly dedicated to supporting and serving his peers.” In addition, Calvin exhibits excellence in reliability, quality of work, initiative and professionalism.
- The Job Placement Resource Center held three job fairs in April. A total of 56 employers attended the events recruiting for summer part-time/seasonal jobs and Allied Health. Employers are excited for the opportunity to connect with and hire Harper students!
- The Harper College Mobile Unit has been on the move in the community this season. The computer classroom on wheels provides access to cutting-edge technology in an environment conducive to learning. The Mobile Unit hosted numerous events including high-stakes certification testing for District 214 students, programming/coding workshops for Ambassador Tour events including STEAM Night at Virginia Lake Elementary School, and has been contracted by the Elk Grove Village Library to serve as a resource at the EGVL Maker Day Event. The list below provides a glimpse as to where the Mobile Unit has been to this semester and future events the Mobile Unit will be showcased and serve as a computer lab resource at:
  - Ambassador Tour @ Harper Main Campus - Friday, 3/17
  - D214 Testing @ JHHS, 8 am – 4 pm - Monday, 3/20
  - D214 Testing @ WHS, 8 am – 4 pm - Tuesday, 3/21
  - D214 Testing @ RM, 8 am – 4 pm - Wednesday, 3/22
  - STEAM Night @ Virginia Lake Elementary School, 5 – 8 pm - Wednesday, 4/5
  - College and Career Expo @ Harper Main Campus, 9 am – 1 pm - Saturday, 4/22
  - Maker Day Event @ Elk Grove Village Library, 1:30-4:30 pm - Sunday, 4/23
  - How to Code Workshop @ Higgins Education Center, 5 – 7 pm - Wednesday, 4/26
  - Microsoft SharePoint Summit @ Microsoft Headquarters Downers Grove, 12 – 3 pm, 5/16
  - Cyber Patriot Training @ Winston Junior High – Northrup Grumman, 9 am – 3 pm, Friday, 6/9
  - Summer Northern Illinois Testing NITC Coalition @ Wojcik, 1 – 3 pm - Thursday, 6/15
  - Computer Coding Workshop @ Barrington Street Fest, 2 – 7 pm - Saturday, 8/26

- Midwest Drone Conference @ Sears Center, 11 am – 4 pm – Tuesday through Thursday, 9/19 – 9/21
- Harper College for Business has a new name: Harper Business Solutions. Harper Business Solutions is one of the College's primary interfaces with the business community, offering contract training services to area business and industry. A rebranding and marketing campaign is underway to communicate the new name to our community.

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

- The Office of Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) has offered a total of 15 D&I Dialogue Workshops this academic year, across seven months and at varying times of day. A total of 270 faculty, staff and administrators have participated in these sessions with a little more than 10% of the participants being part time employees. The sessions have been well received and have resulted in a number of smaller workshops, which have been organized by members of the Employee Resource Groups.
- April 27, 2017 will mark the final event sponsored by the college around the Laquan McDonald Memorial student artwork which is displayed in the President's Office. This final event will provide an opportunity for the entire campus community to come together to discover what was learned this year about our community, our campus, and ourselves. The CommUnity Perspective will consist of time for dialogue, unity and a celebration of diversity.
- A Framework for Excellence and Collaboration: Strategic Leadership for Inclusive Excellence at Community Colleges was the title of a pre-workshop session that Michelé Smith co-facilitated at the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education (NADOHE) conference in late March. This conference session resulted in Michelé facilitating a NADOHE webinar titled Promoting Inclusive Excellence from Your Seat at the Table. The webinar focused on strategies for improving diverse faculty hiring, building collaboration across campus, and inclusive leadership regardless of position or title. Many of the Diversity & Inclusion initiatives in place at Harper College were highlighted during this webinar.

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

- A group of six Harper College students accompanied by staff traveled to Springfield for Student Advocacy Day, where they met with Harper lobbyists and further deepened relationships with several local politicians. Topics discussed were:
  - BSN Program(Bachelors of Science in Nursing)
  - DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)--the impact on undocumented students
  - MAP Funding (Monetary Award Program)—the State budget challenge to the financially needy
  - Harper's graduation rate
  - Harper's advancement rate
  - ICCTA (Illinois Community College Trustee Association)—60% of students with a bachelor's degree attended a Junior College

Harper students also were privileged to dialogue, question and interact with: State Senator Laura Murphy, State Senator Cristina Castro, State Senator Tom Rooney, State Representative Tom Morrison, State Representative Fred Crespo and State Representative Michelle Mussman. Senator Murphy introduced and recognized all of the Harper students in the gallery to her senate

colleagues, while Senator Castro invited the students onto the Senate floor where she shared her story and allowed them to sit in her seat as “Senators for the Day.”



- United States Senator, Tammy Duckworth held a Town Hall meeting at Harper College in J Theatre. More than 300 people attended the event which was moderated by William McNary, the co-director of Citizens Action Illinois. Senator Duckworth expressed her gratitude for Harper College and personally thanked Dr. Maria Coons, who represented Dr. Ender for the tremendous work being done in the community. State Senator Cristina Castro, State Representative Michelle Mussman and State Senator Tom Cullerton were also in attendance and recognized by Senator Duckworth.



- Several staff attended the Education and Work Center in Hanover Park Legislative Breakfast. Provost Dr. Judy Marwick participated in a panel discussion, which included Elgin Community College President Dr. David Sam, Hanover Park Village President Rodney Craig and State Representative Fred Crespo. Also in attendance were United States Congressman Raja Krishnanoorthi, State Senator Laura Murphy and State Senator Cristina Castro.



- On Sunday, February 26, Dr. Ender introduced a new educational concept—called the “Communiversity” at the Barrington White House. In his lecture, “College Affordability and Completion: Ensuring Pathways to Opportunity,” Ender explored how to expand career paths and employment opportunities by creating a network of secondary schools, the community college, and a local state college or university. After the lecture, guests enjoyed a dessert reception catered by Harper culinary students.



- On March 1, Amie Granger participated in the Jane Addams Junior High Career Day. Students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades rotated through different presentations about higher education and careers. In Harper's session students learned about college readiness, the difference between a community college and a four-year institution, programs offered at Harper and the Promise Scholarship.
- Harper recently partnered with Virginia Lake Elementary in Palatine to conduct their first STEAM Night. Over 200 people participated in activities presented by Harper and Virginia Lake. Activities included SketchUp 3D Design, Career Exploration, Making Slim and Rainbow Snow, Coding on the Harper Mobile Unit and information about Adult Education programs.
- The *Daily Herald* recently ran three articles that illustrate the value that Harper College brings not only to its students, but to the entire community. The first article (along with three photos) previewed the seventh annual College and Career Expo, which features dozens of fun, educational and interactive activities aimed at inspiring area students and their parents to prepare earlier for higher education. The second article previewed a joint Lifelong Learning Institute (for learners 55 years and older) and One Book, One Harper lecture with "Mollie's War" author Cyndee Schaffer, who discussed the role that the Women's Army Corps played in World War II. Finally, the paper ran an article about the InZone summer enrichment and sports camp for kids ages 8 to 14. Youth Programming Manager Kevin Hahn said: "InZone offers countless opportunities to learn and have fun this summer. You can explore new things, develop new interests and strengthen existing skills. InZone really stands apart because of the quality of instructions students receive."
- *Journal and Topics* ran an article about U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth's town hall in J Theatre.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article in its business section about the economic breakfast that Harper held featuring investment officer Jack Ablin.
- The *Daily Herald* and *Journal and Topics* ran several articles leading up to and after the election for Harper's Board of Trustees. While the College isn't involved in local Board of Trustees elections, the *Daily Herald's* endorsement was noteworthy. The editorial board wrote: "The choice is eminently clear. As board members at Harper, Walt Mundt and Pat Stack have helped oversee one of the most progressive, creative and respected community colleges in the country."
- The *Northwest Herald* ran an article about motorcycle safety and interviewed Sara Altieri, assistant coordinator of Harper's motorcycle safety training program.

- The *Daily Herald* ran an article previewing Associate Professor Dr. Brian Cremins' lecture on his new book, "Captain Marvel and the Art of Nostalgia."
- *NIU Today*, Northern Illinois University's student newspaper, ran a short item about the upcoming presidential panel in Hoffman Estates featuring Dr. Ken Ender, Elgin Community College President David Sam and NIU President Douglas Baker.
- *Daily North Shore* wrote about a lecture Continuing Education Instructor Anette Isaacs is giving about the Berlin Wall.
- *Real Estate Journals*, which focuses on commercial real estate in the Midwest, and *Healthcare Design* magazine wrote about the Building M project and groundbreaking.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article previewing the Harper Theatre Ensemble's production of "Doubt," which will take place across the street at St. John United Church of Christ.
- *University Business* ran an article about Civitas Learning partnering with additional colleges and universities – including Harper – to leverage predictive analytics to improve student outcomes.
- The *Daily Herald*, *Patch* and several radio stations ran stories about Harper nursing student Emily Kmiecik, who is currently battling cancer for a second time. Chicago Cubs star first baseman and cancer survivor Anthony Rizzo donated \$2,500 to her GoFundMe quest to harvest her eggs in hopes of becoming a mother one day. Kmiecik had developed a relationship with Rizzo's mother after meeting at an Anthony Rizzo Family Foundation event.
- The *Daily Herald* ran a photo of the Northwest suburbs' newly elected mayors, who gathered in Wojcik for the picture.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about Harper alum Ryan Helsdingen, who was on the verge of committing to the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign when he saw an article in 2012 about Harper launching its Engineering Pathways program. As the oldest of six kids, Helsdingen rethought his college plans in order to save money – tens of thousands of dollars, in fact. He was selected for the program, recently graduated from U of I's College of Engineering and today works at a downtown Chicago engineering firm.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about Harper alum Cale Hauptert, who directed the Harper Theatre Ensemble's production of "Picnic." He says: "It's good to be back. It feels like home, like it's a natural progression in my career."
- The *Daily Herald* and *Journal and Topics* ran articles about Harper naming Building F the David K. Hill Family Library in recognition of David and Diane Hill's longtime contributions.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about Moody's reaffirming Harper's Aaa bond rating.

### **President's Priorities Update**

#### 1. Advocates for Students

- During the month of March, 87 unduplicated (104 duplicated) students were seen by the Academic Success Coaches. The coaches averaged an 83% show rate. This number is not inclusive of other means of communication with the students (i.e. email, phone, and text). By the end of March, 100% of the students within the pilot (663 students) were

contacted at least once via various means by the coaches either as a “welcome back,” to set up future appointments, or just a general check-in.

- Starting in February, the coaches began tracking the number of students who have completed their 17/18 FAFSA. In February, 33% of the total coaching pilot (663) had successfully completed their FAFSA. Due to outreach, at the end of March, 39% (roughly an additional 40 students) of the total coaching pilot had successfully completed their FAFSA. Given the correlation between a completed FAFSA and return rates, the coaches will continue to use various means of outreach to make sure students complete their FAFSA by the end of the term.
- Of the 72 students being case managed this fall/spring, 55 have met face-to-face with their counselors thus far. A total of 107 face-to-face contacts, 79 phone contacts, and 400 email contacts have been made.
- Going forward, Academic Advisors will build caseloads of new, degree-seeking, first time in college students by working New Student Orientation. This new advising model will also include counselors. Some counselors will case manage new, degree-seeking, first time in college students (e.g., undecided students and students who are part of special programs), however, counselors will primarily case manage students who are not in good academic standing. It has been determined that having Academic Advisors (as opposed to Academic Success Coaches), who will be trained to do both academic advising and to carry a caseload of students, is the preferred model moving forward. Nineteen existing staff positions will become Academic Advisors, including the current Academic Success Coaches, with an additional eight new Academic Advisor positions. The search committee is underway with a June 1 desired start date for the new advisors.

## 2. First Year Seminar and Educational Plan

- Harper continues to increase its First Year Seminar course offerings for Fall 2017. This fall will include some of the FYS courses that have been offered in the past, but will also include new sections that align with the College’s focus on “Areas of Interest.” Faculty within an “Area of Interest” will collaborate to create an FYS course that addresses the unique features of and specific college and career planning needs within a set of disciplines. These FYS sections can provide students with a more focused and personalized FYS experience.

## 3. Completion of Buildings F, M and the Canning Center

- Building F Renovations – The demolition is complete. The third floor interior wall construction is complete and the contractor is currently working on the second floor interior walls.
- Building M Renovations and Addition – The groundbreaking event took place on April 10, 2017. The asbestos abatement is complete and the demolition has commenced.
- Canning Center – The State of Illinois has put the Canning Center project on hold.

## 4. Promise Program Funding

- As of April 18, 2017, there were 371 donors recorded. The total contributions raised including verbal pledges were \$8,676,996.

Finally, we welcome to the Board of Trustees Mr. Herb Johnson, who was elected to a two-year term on the Board; and welcome back to Pat Stack, who was elected to a six-year term. In addition, we welcome back Walt Mundt, who will serve in a two-year appointed term. Finally, our new student Trustee, Niki Safakas, who was elected by the student body, is a welcome addition to the Board. The College is blessed with a talented and sophisticated group of Board members, dedicated to making the College the best in promoting student success and community viability. We thank you for your service.

*Ken*