

President's Report

May 2011

May is a very special time on a college campus. An aura of anticipation resonates as an ending is in sight and a new beginning unfolds. Students and faculty alike are in a celebratory mood!

Over the past several days, the campus hosted many celebrations, including: Academic Convocation, Student Activities Awards Night, the annual Harper College Fashion Show, musical and dance productions, and a special night for our athletic teams. Hundreds of students have been recognized for their outstanding academic, leadership, and athletic abilities. All of these events have been supported by Harper's production, technical, and logistical staffs. These individuals worked tirelessly and did an outstanding job. I am proud of these colleagues and wish to thank them for their dedication and hard work.

We are busy preparing for commencement which will occur in a few days. This year, we have a record number of graduates; 3,435 students have filed petitions for graduation. That number represents 1,395 more graduates than was anticipated. This increase directly supports our completion goal and is an indicator that more students are finding value in completing certificates and degrees. Approximately 500 of these students will walk across the stage at graduation, also a record number at Harper College. Our Enrollment Services staff, led by Maria Moten, has done a terrific job encouraging students to petition for graduation. They have searched through records for individuals who have sufficient credits for certificates or degrees and reinforced the value of completion.

Our credit summer enrollment is sluggish, particularly as compared to the record enrollment Harper experienced during the recent economic downturn. This trend is occurring throughout the northwest suburbs and the state, and it may be a sign that the economy is improving. In spite of the stagnant enrollment, our projected budget position for FY 11 will be positive. As the budget is prepared for FY 12, we are projecting a 2% increase in credit enrollment and will hold one percent in contingency. An improving economy draws more community members to other programs. Our *InZone* summer youth program is booming. We believe that offering the program 5 days a week is contributing to significant increases in enrollment.

In addition to the celebratory events, the College has been busy with other initiatives.

Strategic Planning

- The Champion Team, Goal Team Leaders and Administrators attended a day-long retreat to review the College's progress in implementing the strategic plan and discuss how the new

strategies would be coordinated within College operations. Stakeholder impacts and an implementation schedule were developed. In addition, the group discussed activities that support the approved institutional effectiveness measures. The day ended with a review of promising practices other community colleges have used to leverage their impact on student success.

Finance

- The current Education Fund projection for the fiscal year is expected to come in better than budget for both revenue and expense. The revenue variance is driven by the State base operating grant funding which is now current through May, but was only budgeted at 50% for the year. Expenditures are running under budget with the largest component being salaries and benefits related to position vacancies during the year. The FY 2012 budget is on schedule to be put on public display in mid-June. Legal adoption will be requested at the August Board of Trustees meeting.
- The Campus Bookstore has processed 515 student and 161 faculty/staff cap and gown orders for graduation. Student gowns are “green” gowns made from earth-friendly materials which are designed to decompose in soil. Faculty/staff gowns are re-useable rental gowns.
- Over the last seven weeks, Dining Services has provided catering services for 259 campus and Conference Center events with a total of 13,487 people. This is in addition to providing cafeteria services to students, faculty, and staff. On average, food services are provided to 2,346 people per day.

Human Resources

- Harper College has committed to conducting a comprehensive compensation study that will address every job and/or job category (except Full-Time Faculty as that study is complete). This study will determine the market competitiveness of the College's compensation program so that the College can continue to attract and retain excellent employees. The Compensation Study Committee has held their initial introductory meeting.

Information Technology

- *Technology Change in Speech Classrooms* – Video/audio technology upgrades in three speech rooms are complete. These upgrades will allow faculty members to record video and audio of student speeches in a digital format and allows students to review their work.
- *Document Imaging* – Completed the implementation of document imaging in the International Student Office which allows the office to more efficiently manage the international student application process.
- *Live Chat with the Service Desk* – The Service Desk began using LiveHelpNow Chat software as another means for clients to contact the Service Desk allowing individuals to communicate through their computer with a live service desk employee. The Chat function has been used in the past weeks 99 times and received a satisfaction rating of 92%.
- *Registrar Computers* – Five workstation computers and two printers were installed outside of the Registrar's office to enable students to register, pay and request transcripts electronically.

- *Oracle Updates* – The application used for key business data backups from EBS and Banner was updated to the latest release. Additionally, check printing was migrated to an Oracle provided solution from a legacy application.
- *New Multi-function Devices* – Fifteen new multi-function copiers/printers/scanners were installed on campus to replace legacy Xerox devices.

Physical Plant

- *D Building Renovations* – A proposal is currently undergoing staff review. The timing for this project is dependent upon phasing relative to completion of the G&H project.
- *Student Center and Hospitality* – Request for Qualifications has been developed.
- *G & H Remodeling Project* – Construction documents are in process.
- *Master Plan, Euclid and Roselle Road Entrances* – A Request for Qualifications for architectural services is being prepared and will be issued at the end of May.
- *Parking Lots 2 and 2A* – Construction was completed with no change orders.
- *C Building Restroom Remodeling* – The first floor restrooms are complete. The second floor remodeling will continue through the end of the year.
- *W Building First Floor Office Remodeling* – Construction is complete and staff has moved into the remodeled space.
- *B Building Office Remodeling* – Construction is complete.
- *Y Building Back-up Generator* – The contractor began exterior construction in late April and the concrete foundations have been poured. The interior electrical work is well underway. This project is expected to be complete by mid-July. Upon completion, the generator will provide power for critical cooling equipment in the Data Center that runs campus-wide computer systems.
- *Exterior Light Fixture Replacement* – Work is complete and paperwork has been submitted for reimbursement through a grant being provided by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Harper's contractor replaced 120 outdated building-mounted light fixtures with new ones that consume one-third the energy.
- *C-202a Printmaking Shop* – Demolition and abatement work is complete and new exhaust hoods and ductwork are ready for installation. The project will include a new ceiling, new lighting, etching tanks, sinks, and counters replacing outdated and deteriorated equipment.
- *Sidewalk Replacement at the Blue Pool* – Plans and specifications are out for bid. Soil borings and site investigations determined the likely causes of the sidewalk heaving and severe cracking east of the fountain area west of Building I.

- *Other Project Completions* – The following projects are complete:
 - a) HPC Roofing Replacement and General Construction
 - b) Boiler #2 Re-Tube Project
 - c) Renovation of J-Theater

Student Success

- Coordinator of the Certified Nursing Assistant Program, Julie D’Agostino, has been named a Greater Chicago Regional Finalist in the 2011 *Nursing Spectrum* Nurse Excellence program in the teaching category.
- Wayne Johnson has been recognized as a contributor by Loyola University’s Department of Criminal Justice, which hosted a panel on the Mob. Wayne is the author of *New Faces of Organized Crime*.
- Mary Hood, Leslye Hess, and seven second-year radiologic technology students attended the Annual Illinois State Society of Radiologic Technologists Conference and Scholar Bowl in Normal, Illinois. Four students represented Harper College in the Scholar Bowl and placed second in the first round and advanced to the final round.
- Graphic Arts Technology hosted “Boost,” a special event for high school sophomores and juniors. Sixty students attended and participated in six hands-on sessions from application to working the presses.
- Patrick Beach, Coordinator of the Hospitality Management program, hosted the 110th Conference of the International Foodservice Executives Association (IFSEA) in Schaumburg. Over 700 people participated in educational programs and competitions. Patrick was awarded the DODG, IFSEA’s highest honor.
- Special congratulations to the Deaf Program and the Interpreter Training Program for being nominated for several 2011 Deaf Illinois Awards:
 - Debby Sampson (Best Deaf Activist)
 - Harper College (Best College)
 - DeaFest, DeafNation Expo and the annual Volleyball Tournament (Best Deaf Event)
 - Harper College (Best Interpreter Training Program)
- Harper hosted Travel Channel TV personality Andrew Zimmern, who addressed the audience of 690 about food-oriented sustainability concerns. This event provided for a meaningful curriculum infusion opportunity as Zimmern prepared dinner with a group of culinary students prior to the speaking engagement. There was press coverage on Yahoo News, YouTube (two posted videos) and in the *Daily Herald*.
- The Women’s Program held its Annual Domestic Violence Training Day on April 29th, focusing on domestic violence awareness and how to infuse the information into course curriculum.
- Both the Men’s and Women’s Track and Field teams won nationals under the coaching leadership of Renee Zellner.

- Patricia Hamlen, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, was selected to participate in the NEH summer institute to India. This is a competitive award with more than 100 applicants vying for 24 places in the program.
- Sue Bajt, Professor in Computer Information Systems, served as a Higher Learning Commission consultant-evaluator for the accreditation of Dakota County Technical College in Rosemount, Minnesota.
- Paul Peterson and Marianne Farinas de Leon, faculty in Academic Enrichment and Language Studies, presented "Developmental: It's not their skill; it's how you teach" at the Developmental Symposium.
- Harper's New Advising Professionals Training Program was accepted as an Exemplary Practice for inclusion in the National Academic Advising Association 2011 Advising Administration Commission-sponsored monograph identifying outstanding practices in advising administration.
- New Student Orientation for summer and fall is well underway. The Center for New Students and Orientation and the Assessment Center have invited more than 1,000 students to attend.
- Admissions Outreach participated in a number of community events geared towards adults returning to school. Those events included the Harper College Job Fair, Northrop Grumman, Education Fair, Rolling Meadows Benefits Fair, Midwest Gaming and Entertainment Job Fair, and the 10th District Job Fair.
- Admissions Outreach, in collaboration with various faculty and staff, hosted the Spring High School Open House. Students and their families were provided with information about the postsecondary educational opportunities available to them here at Harper College and were guided through the steps of the admissions process. More than 450 people were in attendance.
- Admissions Outreach hosted a spring semester Spanish Information Session. All in attendance were interested in learning more about the ESL program and other Harper classes.
- Pardess Mitchell, faculty in Physical Education, presented a paper "Teaching the Millennial Student: From Motivation to Engagement" at the International Conference for College Teaching and Learning and won the Best Paper Award.
- Harper's Engineering Program hosted the Community College Catapult Contest.
- Harper's Astronomy Program hosted Astronomy Day in conjunction with the Northwest Suburban Astronomers. The first floor of Z-building was filled with astronomy activities including displays, presentations, an inflatable planetarium, and space-themed crafts for children.
- Music Chair Greg Clemons was an adjudicator and clinician for the Illinois High School Association Large Ensemble Festival. The Festival was held at Thornwood Township High School in South Holland, Illinois, and attended by 57 high school bands, orchestras, and jazz

bands from throughout the greater Chicago area. Greg also served as a guest conductor and clinician at Glenbrook South High School.

- Amy Kammerman, Coordinator of Library Instruction, presented an ITC Brown Bag session entitled “Images as Information” and discussed techniques for active learning in library instruction in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Amy also gave a presentation at the 3rd Annual Best Practices Learning Symposium for Developmental Educators at Harper entitled “The Library as a Tool for Success.”
- The Tutoring Center has been very busy this semester. Tutors have logged in 10,687 contact hours. This represents a 17% increase over the same period last year.

In closing, I would like to thank the Board for their expression of support for my Presidency by of authorizing an extension to my contract through 2015. Cathy and I are beginning to feel more at home in the Chicago area, despite the challenging winters! William Rainey Harper College is an exceptional institution. I look forward to the next few years as we continue to activate the strategic plan and experience even more success with our completion agenda. Again, thank you for your support.

Let's hope for great weather for our graduation festivities!

Ken