

President's Report

May 2012

There are only eight days left until graduation, as I write this report, and many are becoming fixated on long range weather forecasts! I am confident that there will be sunny skies somewhere on May 20 and they might as well be in Palatine, Illinois. We shall see.

This is a great time of year on the campus as we all anticipate the final celebration of student success, the commencement ceremony. We are so delighted that David Brooks will be with us to receive a degree and provide the commencement address. Many people will have exposure to Mr. Brooks through a pre-commencement brunch, the actual ceremony, and the post-graduation reception that Cathy and I will be hosting at our home. He has been so gracious with his time as he has dedicated this entire day to Harper festivities. We are honored.

This year, over 4,200 Associate Degrees and Certificates will be awarded, which is a record for Harper College. We will have over 550 students participating in graduation, also a record for the College. We have been stressing the message that it is critical to FINISH and it is evident that this message is beginning to be heard. We are ahead of the projections we made several years ago in terms of adding an additional 10,604 completers by 2020.

Each year, the College acknowledges a Distinguished Faculty member which includes not only recognition of extraordinary service to our students, but also an honorarium provided by the Motorola Solutions' Foundation. This year's recipient is Veronica Morimino, Assistant Professor and Chair of the Geography Department. In acknowledgement of this prestigious award, Veronica will be leading the processional during graduation.

Over the last two weeks there have been many student celebrations: a picnic for student leaders and their advisors at our home, the honors convocation ceremony, and the student activities awards celebration. These campus events are an important part of our tradition and are meaningful for students and staff alike. We celebrate the community that has been built among us, the joy of finishing, and the anticipation of the next phase in these students' lives. We will miss those who are graduating and appreciate their contributions, as they have enriched our culture.

Our future graduation rates look promising! Approximately 800 students in grades 4-8, their parents and family members attended Harper College's second College and Career Expo held on Saturday, April 28, in Avanté. The goal of the Expo is to inspire younger students to learn about 21st Century careers, while raising awareness about the importance of post-secondary education as the path to prepare for these careers. Harper College faculty and staff, along with

community and business partners, staged a series of hands-on activities and demonstrations. Students participated in geology scavenger hunts, designed airbags, made slime, examined the microscopic critters in Harper's lake water, isolated their own DNA and much more. Community and business participants included Northrop Grumman, Motorola, the University of Illinois-Chicago, Society of Women Engineers and CBS 2 Meteorologist Steve Baskerville, among dozens more. It was truly an amazing experience for all of our guests!

In this month's Board packet, we will be recommending two new degrees in the manufacturing area. We have just completed an *internship drive* so that paid internships can be included in these programs. The effort has been successful in that 47 local manufacturing companies have agreed to provide over 60 internship opportunities for our students. Working with our secondary partners, businesses, the workforce system, and our economic development partners, we intend to launch these programs in the fall of 2012.

Construction is well underway for the new Euclid Avenue entrance and one can literally observe the work from the President's office. Thus far, disruptions have been minimal and our Facilities and Communications departments have been working diligently to assure the campus is well informed as the project unfolds. Kudos to our internal communications manager,Carolynn Muci for her efforts in this regard.

The recruitment and screening phase of the search for our new Chief Advancement Officer is well underway and we anticipate interviewing several excellent candidates, soon. We have an excellent pool and feel very confident the search will be successful. In the meantime, Lisa Dietlin is providing excellent leadership and direction for our staff. The Advancement Office has just conducted a very successful employee annual campaign, and is meeting all benchmarks to ensure a successful golf outing in June, and President's Gala in September. Kudos to all!

Below are a few highlights of student, faculty and staff accomplishments.

Student Success

- The Men's Track and Field Team won the National Championship! The team was led by Pablo Ramirez who was selected the most valuable track athlete, having won the 5K (in which he set a meet record) and 10K. Pablo will graduate this May and has signed a letter of intent to Eastern Illinois University. Other champions (placing first in their events) included Chris Spudic in the 3000m steeplechase, Isaac Jean Paul in the high jump, Robert Douglas in the 110 hurdles, and Troy Cunningham in the 800m. All-American (placing second in his event) was Andre Barnes in the 400m. Spudic also placed third in the 1500m. Ryan Wojdyla placed third in the 10000m, fourth in 5000m and fourth in the 3000m steeplechase. Eric Porter placed third in the high jump. Steve Heer placed fourth in the 10000m and sixth in the 5000m. Douglas placed fifth in the high jump and eight in the 400m hurdles. There were many other great finishes that contributed to their 132 point finish. The coaching staff was also honored: Renee Zellner was named Men's Coach of the Meet and Nathaniel Williams was named Men's Assistant Coach of the Year.
- Inducted into the Coaches' Association NJCAA Hall of Fame was Ryan Asta, former Harper champion and graduate.

- The Harper College Women's Track and Field Team finished ninth in the NJCAA National Championships. All- Americans (placing second in their events) include Jazmin Calep in the 100m, Erica Ogunleye in the hammer, and Brittany Wall in the discus. Calep also placed fourth in the 200m. Ogunleye and Walls took fifth and seventh, respectively, in the shot put. Ogunleye also placed eighth in the discus and Walls eighth in the hammer. The 4x100 team of Calep, Beatriz Kiene, Ashley Packard, and Shanice Morina placed seventh. Beatriz Keine placed seventh in the long jump.
- Fashion student Alexandra Forsythe took 2nd place in the national AOBA student Design Competition. She had competition from Philadelphia University which took 1st place, and the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, took 4th. We congratulate Ali and Fashion Instructor Donna Sculley for these extraordinary efforts.
- The GRA120 Graphic Design class participated in a print advertisement "Best New Ad" competition for a live client. College Bed lofts, a company that sells bed lofts to college students for their dorm rooms, needed a fresh new ad promotion. Fifteen colleges and universities participated in this design competition. These included Ohio State University, Southwestern Michigan University, Indiana University. Merry Majchrowski, a Harper student, was the first place winner of this on-line completion.
- Valerie Walker, Human Services Faculty and Program Coordinator, was nominated for the Jane Addams College of Social Work Pioneer Award. This award was established to recognize alumni who have made significant, pioneering, or standout contributions to a community, state, or nation consistent with the mission of the College in its commitment to social, racial and economic justice. Valerie was nominated for her community service, program development and organizational leadership on local, regional and national levels.
- Bobby Summers, Political Science Faculty, took six students from Harper's Model UN Team to the Chicago International Political Simulation. Harper was the only community college at the competition; all other schools were four-year institutions including DePaul and UIC. Harper College took 3rd Place at the Competition. Team members included: Nicole Thomas, Slewo Oshana, Marco Herrera, Hugo Traveseras, Noah Yosif, and Umur Acar. Individual honors included: Nicole Thomas won Outstanding Delegate in her committee – Politburo of the USSR and Slewo Oshana and Marco Herrera won the Political Simulation Award for their representation of Romania in the Security Council and the General Assembly.
- Kappa Beta Delta Honor's Society held its Spring 2012 Induction Ceremony, inducting 21 members. Kappa Beta Delta is an accredited international business honor society for two-year colleges and is advised by Robin James. Christopher Campbell, Executive Director, Executive Network Group of Greater Chicago, delivered the keynote address.
- Laura LaBauve has been selected as a 2012 Leadership Fellow for the National Community College Hispanic Council's Leadership Fellows Program. The NCCHC is affiliated with the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). The 2012 Leadership Fellows Program is offered with support from the Ford Foundation and in collaboration with California State University, Long Beach. The NCCHC's mission is to develop leaders for the challenges that lie ahead in higher education.

- The Career Center sponsored its annual Spring Job Fair in April with the largest number of employers in five years at 92, and more than 950 job seekers attending. Representative Fred Crespo met with his constituents and provided information to job seekers throughout Illinois.
- Admissions Outreach hosted the Latino Summit for high school seniors. Students had the opportunity to hear from Latino professionals, learn about programs and services from Harper faculty and staff and got a tour of the campus. High schools represented included Barrington, Hoffman Estates, Wheeling, Elk Grove, Schaumburg, John Hersey, Buffalo Grove and Vanguard High Schools.
- Representatives from Admissions Outreach and Continuing Education represented Harper College at Chef's Fest, and showcased information about Harper's Hospitality Management program and CE's Personal Enrichment and InZone offerings.

Physical Plant

- As evidenced by the fencing and heavy construction equipment on the north side of campus, Harper is now officially underway with the Master Plan. The reconfiguration work on the parking lots and roadways in this area will ultimately provide for a safer and more sustainable environment for the entire campus community upon completion later this year. Every effort will be taken to minimize disruption to our faculty, staff, students, and visitors during the next few months and beyond.

Finance

- The current campus vending agreement for cold beverages, hot beverages, and snacks expires on June 30, 2012. After reviewing several proposals, Canteen has been selected as best able to meet the vending needs of the College while also providing the greatest projected financial return of \$480,000 over the three years ending June 30, 2105. In addition to the agreement with Canteen for vending services, the College is also entering into a three-year contract with Pepsi to sell Pepsi-based drinks exclusively on campus. This agreement is projected to provide an additional \$195,000 to the College.
- Our Accounting Office has received two prestigious awards from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The GFOA established the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting program to encourage government entities to go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles and to prepare comprehensive annual financial reports (CAFRs) that evidence the spirit of transparency and full disclosure. Last year, the College received the Certificate of Achievement award for its initial year of preparing the CAFR. This year, the College has received the award for the 2nd consecutive year. This is the highest form of recognition in government accounting and financial reporting. The GFOA has also awarded Harper with the Certificate of Recognition for Budget Preparation for an impressive 13th consecutive year. The GFOA established the Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program to encourage government entities to prepare budget documents of the highest quality that reflect both the guidelines established by the National Advisory Council on State and Local Budgeting and the GFOA's best practices on budgeting, and then to recognize individual governments that succeed in achieving that goal.

Public Safety

- The Palatine Fire Department conducted training drills in H Building on April 11, 12, and 13 and again April 18, 19, and 20. The Division Chief of Training communicated his gratitude to Harper and noted their training on campus was widely regarded as some of the best they ever had. The Harper College Police Department collaborated with the Physical Plant to ensure that the training ran smoothly.

Information Technology

- The development and implementation of a MyOrientation page in the student portal was completed. The page provides students with targeted information on the orientation process and provides self-service registration to students for orientation sessions.
- A number of technology upgrades were performed by Technical Services staff members during April. The Financial Aid Banner module was upgraded to 8.14, the most current release. The E-SARS project was completed which will provide students with self-service capability to register for assessment (COMPASS) testing and for Orientation programs. These updates included server deployments for the new SharePoint system which will support documentation management for the Continuing Education department and several other documentation management needs. In addition, due to vendor recommendations, a number of network interface cards supporting Harper's email servers, room scheduling system, and several other systems were replaced to avoid future outages.

Human Resources

- Human Resources Forum - On Friday, May 4, the Northwest Human Resources Council held their annual forum at Harper. Angela Bowling, Benefits and Compensation Manager, was in attendance. This year's forum topics were *Leading and Managing Through Change*, *Compensation in a Recovering Economy*, *Human Resources as Business Partner: A Business Learning Session*, and *They're Just Not That Into You: How to Get the C-Suite to Take Notice*.

Workforce and Strategic Alliances

- The first comprehensive training class was completed for adjunct instructors teaching in Fast Track. Kathy Foldvary conducted an interactive and intensive class that included student panels.
- Enrollment in Harper's InZone program, a summer youth program, is up 31%. This summer, a new program titled Nuts, Bolts and Thingamajigs, will provide a firsthand view of advanced manufacturing to middle schoolers. We look forward to welcoming our *little friends*, soon.

Following graduation, from June 5 – 19, Cathy and I will be traveling to Virginia and then on to a family reunion on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. We are going to make a quick trip back to Palatine on June 11 for the Educational Foundation's annual golf outing. We hope that many of our Board members are participating in this event, either golfing, dinner, or both!

In closing let me offer a special congratulations to our Board Chair Diane Hill. Last week, Diane was the recipient of the Chicago Chapter of the Association for Fund Raising Professionals' Philanthropic Award. In addition, at our Honors Convocation, Diane received the James McGrath Award for excellence. Her leadership, service, and philanthropic efforts were rightfully noticed, and she was a wonderful choice for these awards.

I look forward to our stretch to the finish line and a successful and heartfelt commencement ceremony!

Ken