

President's Report

May 2013

It is a sprint to the finish! This week marks the end of the academic year as we are diligently preparing for a fantastic commencement ceremony. We have already celebrated the remarkable academic accomplishments of our students at last week's Convocation ceremony. It was impressive to see a full house in the Performing Arts Center. Parents, spouses, children, family members and friends gathered to witness the honors that were bestowed on our students.

In addition to our students, two faculty members were given awards. Elizabeth Minicz, Professor in Academic Enrichment received the prestigious Motorola Award for Teaching Excellence. Professor Minicz graciously received the award by providing a heartfelt summary of her professional experience, specifically mentioning how teaching adult students became such a passion. This was also the first year that the Larry Moats "Five Extra Minutes" award was given to a faculty member who takes extra time to help students. The inaugural award was given to Dr. Alicia Tomasian who has taken the time to assist students applying for the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke transfer scholarship. As I mentioned in last month's report, this has occurred for an unprecedented third year in a row; four Harper College students have received this award in the past three years. Amazing! One of our trustees was honored, as well. Laurie Stone was selected as the winner of the James McGrath Award for Excellence. It was truly an evening of celebration!

The Student Activities Awards Night also took place last week. This fun filled event acknowledges the many clubs and organizations that get students involved on campus. Student involvement is a key factor in student success.

During the last weekend in April and first weekend in May two notable events were held on campus that required a significant amount of coordination. In support of Harper's completion mission and inspiration strategy, the recent *College and Career Expo* and *Inspire U* events engaged and motivated more than 1,000 community residents to start, finish and go forward with their lives through education. The Expo and Inspire U are projects developed by the Inspiration Strategic team in partnership with many other faculty, staff and community colleagues. While the Expo engages 4-8 grade students and families, Inspire U was designed to reach adult learners. This has always been a goal of the Inspiration team, but the concept really came to life through comments shared by parents who attended past Expos and shared that they were looking for similar opportunities to explore learning relevant to their own lives. Kudos

to Mike Barzacchini and Margaret Bilos, our Inspire goal leaders, for seamlessly pulling off two consecutive events!

Cathy and I hosted the annual student picnic at our house a few weeks ago. We held the picnic indoors because the weather didn't cooperate. In spite of this, we had a great time chatting with students, faculty and staff.

I was honored to attend a luncheon of the Association for Fundraising Professionals where Rita and John Canning received an award for their generous philanthropic initiatives. Also in attendance were Trustees Dowell, Kelley, Mundt and Gallo, as well as the President of the Harper College Educational Foundation, Tom Wischhusen.

However, the many activities are not quite over. The Annual Fashion Show will take place this week. This event serves as a capstone for our Fashion Design students—as it showcases their creations and talents.

Below are recent activities and accomplishments.

Finance

- The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) established the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting 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. This is the third consecutive year the College has received this GFOA award, which is the highest form of recognition in government accounting and financial reporting.

Information Technology

- Developed an interface from the Student Information System to AcademicWorks (AW), a system that allows current and prospective students to search, apply for, and accept scholarships. The interface automates the delivery of student information to the AW system, including authentication information so students can use the same user ID and password to login to the system.
- Completed the development of a process to enable voting for the student senate and trustee candidates via the student portal.
- Completed the project to provide communication to new degree-seeking students who test into developmental education, notifying them they need to register for pre-college English and math classes in their first semester.
- Completed phase two of the SharePoint system providing automation for managing the Continuing Education course offering process. Phase two provides editing capabilities and an interface to the student information system (Banner).

- Completed the implementation of 25Live, a system that provides web-based resource scheduling, publishing, and other utilities that allow secure access to search for and request booking of campus rooms and spaces.

Physical Plant

- Work will begin on May 20 to replace the angled metal roof portions on Buildings E, L, and P. These areas have exceeded their useful life and will be replaced before the fall semester starts in mid-August. Physical Plant is working with the academic areas that may be affected to ensure that any noise and/or other disruptions are kept to a minimum.
- Work will begin for the Child Learning Center Playground Improvements on May 20 and will be completed by June 30. The project includes mitigating existing water drainage issues and replacing some of the more dated playground equipment.
- Excavation of the underground vault that houses the mechanical equipment that operates the “Oasis” fountain east of the Performing Arts Center is being scheduled. This work is necessary to provide continuing safe operation for staff.

Human Resources

- Roger Spayer, Chief Human Resources Officer, presented two sessions as part of the College’s Inspire-U event held on Saturday, May 4. The event was billed as an exploration and experience expo, inspiring adults to go forward by sparking their imaginations, exploring new ideas, and regaining career focus; and, to awaken, restore, and recharge their minds, bodies, and selves by learning how to make themselves, their careers and their lives more fulfilled. Spayer’s informational presentation, “What Gets You Hired”, highlighted the latest survey research that identified the critical knowledge, skills, and abilities today’s employers desire when hiring staff.
- Staff in the Human Resources area coordinated the spring employee gathering “Salute to Summer.” The event featured an all-American barbeque lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs, grilled chicken, and veggie burgers, and of course Cracker Jack. Spirited employees wore their favorite team’s baseball jersey. The weather was great and a good time was had by all!

Planning and Institutional Effectiveness

- The annual Outcomes Assessment Report was completed and posted on the portal. This report highlights the outcomes assessment activities of programs and departments across campus.
- The area has entered into a contract with NIU for employment data on Harper graduates. These data are critical in tracking success and in determining if students are finding employment in their fields of study.

Student Success

- Ashley Knight, Dean of Student Affairs has been named Community College Representative to the NASPA Region IV-East Advisory Board. NASPA is the nations' leading organization for student affairs administration, policy and practice.
- Terry Morris, faculty in Computer Information Systems, published the second edition of her textbook, *Basics of Web Design: HTML5 & CSS3*.
- Summer advising for new students is in progress. Improvements in communication via the MyOrientation tab on the student portal have helped to streamline the processes for new students.
- Information sessions were held for health careers and the advanced manufacturing program.

Workforce and Strategic Alliances

- The Illinois Network for Advanced Manufacturing (INAM) met as a consortium at Joliet Junior College to continue implementation of the TAACCCT Department of Labor grant. Representatives from all 21 community colleges were in attendance. In addition, the President's Advisory Committee met to discuss progress to date in implementing the grant.
- The Fast Track area held a faculty development course focused on adult learning principles and the fast track cohort modality. Six adjunct faculty attended and provided positive feedback on the course.

Marketing Services

- Approximately 700 people attended the third annual College and Career Expo held on April 27 in Avanté. Each year the Expo seeks to inspire students in grades 4-8, their parents and families through a series of hands-on experiences and activities, while raising awareness about the importance of post-secondary education. In three years, the Expo has attracted approximately 2,100 people to campus to take part in activities and experiences that promote learning in the sciences, technology, mathematics, engineering, health careers, the arts, world languages and much more. This year's Expo also saw record participation by faculty and staff, along with a record number of student volunteers.

2013 College and Career Expo by the numbers

- 700+ attendees
 - 30 hands-on experiences
 - 12 table displays
 - 5 fire department and rescue units represented (Hoffman Estates, Mt. Prospect, Palatine City, Rolling Meadows, Schaumburg)
 - 1 police department (Palatine)
 - 115 faculty, staff, student and community volunteers
- As the inaugural motivational outreach event for adults, Inspire U, held on May 4, attracted the interest and participation of attendees in search of inspiration and motivation. Through the

event, Harper was positioned as a leading educational resource due to our variety of support services, expert faculty and staff, selection of flexible and relevant programming. Key messaging included our mission to help each individual start, finish and go forward with their lives through education.

2013 Inspire U by the numbers:

- Attendees: 280+ (Leads generated: 350)
- Staff/Faculty volunteers: 40+
- Student volunteers: 15+
- Partner volunteers: 25+ (Community Subject Matter Experts, Transfer Schools, Industry Partners)
- Presenters/Break-out Sessions: 14 (Staff, Instructors, Partners)
- Expo Participants: 12
- Art and Entertainment Demonstrations and Performances: 8

Advancement

- The Resource for Excellence Employee Campaign is now complete having exceeded the goal of \$50,000 pledged from faculty and staff; \$52,400 has been pledged for grants and emerging programs. Thank you to all Harper faculty and staff who have generously contributed. This year, several raffle prizes were awarded:
 - Reserved parking (compliments of the Physical Plant) – Stephanie Whalen
 - Stay in Virginia (compliments of the Enders) – Gregory Horeni
 - Harper College Massages (compliments of the Massage Therapy program) – Theresa Clark, Julie Riley, Elizabeth Huxoll, Dennis Kmiec, Judy Basofin
- The Foundation Professional Advisors Committee participated in the federal Money Smart Week program by hosting sessions at Harper College on money management topics such as wills, insurance, retirement planning, and social security.
- Students are applying for scholarships on the new Academic Works software. The software matches applicants to the scholarships for which they are eligible.
- The Foundation presented the James McGrath Award for Excellence to Laurie Stone, Trustee member, the Motorola Solutions Foundation Award for Excellence to students Elisa Galvin and Kelli Halfman, and the Motorola Solutions Foundation Endowed Award for Teaching Excellence to Elizabeth Minicz at the Convocation held May 9. The inaugural Professor Powell & Larry Moats “Extra Five Minutes” Faculty Award was presented to Dr. Alicia Tomasian.
- A \$500,000 planned gift was pledged to the Harper College Educational Foundation. The donor wishes to be anonymous at this time.
- Total dollars raised from July 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013 is \$1,733,734.

Legislative Relations

- The Illinois House and Illinois Senate each passed their own version of pension reform. The House version makes significant cuts to employee benefits, but estimated savings are projected to be about \$140 billion. The Senate bill gives employees a variety of choices, but is only estimated to cut about \$45 billion from the system's future liability. Both bills will likely be challenged in court if they are passed into law.
- House Speaker Michael Madigan presided over the first of several hearings about shifting the cost of pensions from the State and onto units of local government. The Speaker has been vocal about ending what he calls the "free lunch" enjoyed by suburban and downstate schools that receive about \$800 million a year from the state to pay for pensions. Opponents argue requiring schools to pick up the cost of pensions would force an increase in property taxes. More hearings on the cost shift are scheduled this week.
- Harper participated in the Illinois Community College Trustees Association's Lobby Day in Springfield with representation by the Student Trustee and a member of the Student Senate. They met with Harper district legislators including State Senators Matt Murphy and Dan Kotowski and State Representatives Tom Morrison and David Harris (see picture below).



Harper College Student Trustee Scott Lietzow, right, and student senator Kristie Constabileo, left, talk with State Senator Matt Murphy, center, while in Springfield for ICCTA Lobby Day.

Community Relations

- We hosted about 400 fifth- through eighth-graders through Friday field trips in April; among them was a full-day excursion for Virginia Lake School in Palatine that allowed students to sit in on “mini-classes” with Harper professors. We’ll host another 120 students this month as we wrap up the field trip season.
- Dr. Ender visited with about a dozen eighth-graders from Mead Junior High in Elk Grove Village as part of an inspiration field trip on Friday, May 3.
- Staffed a booth at the Eisenhower Middle School career fair on Wednesday, May 1, handing out college planning guides and talking with students about getting started at Harper.
- Through a Speaker’s Bureau request, an adjunct instructor in Emergency Management will address the Barrington Women’s BizNet group on the subject of disaster planning for businesses.

We just received an impressive trophy from the American Association of Community Colleges. Last month, I reported that Harper was a finalist for the Outstanding College/Corporate Partnership Award. We were honored to not only be one of five finalists, but delighted that we won the award!

The 25th Annual Golf Outing will be held on June 10—it’s a great way to ease into summer. I hope to see many of you there.

Cathy and I will be taking some time off after graduation to relax and unwind. It’s been a mad rush to the end of the academic year and we will use this time to recharge and re-energize.

But first, graduation. I just know it’s going to be a beautiful sunny day! I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Ken