

President's Report

June 2012

Summer is in full swing. This is evident from the warmer weather, and InZone (summer youth) students who are filling the campus with energy and enthusiasm. This is also the time when we welcome local students attending four-year institutions who come to Harper to complete summer school classes. These are great additions to the Harper student body!

We are still basking in the success of our recent commencement ceremony. It was indeed a special day! Our campus looked beautiful thanks to the hard work of many, many people. We conferred a record number of degrees and certificates and had a record number of students participate in graduation. A special thank you to our Graduation Committee and in particular Maria Moten and Joan Kindle who led the effort.

This month begins the budget approval process for the College. Budget development actually begins in December as we work through the complexities of forecasting State allocations and student enrollment. This year, we embarked on a systematic and collaborative initiative to develop financial policies that will inform and guide future budget decisions. The final reading of those policies is included in this month's Board packet.

The most noticeable activity on campus is the reconstruction of our north and west parking lots, and reconfiguration of the Roselle and Euclid entrances. The objective is to make the entrances safer and develop parking areas that tie more readily to the campus and are greener. It's a little messy right now, but in a few months we will be seeing the results and they will be beautiful!

The Educational Foundation hosted a very successful golf outing at Inverness Country Club last week. One hundred golfers participated in the event. Kudos to Erin Brooks, who took on the monumental task of organizing the golf outing, very late in the process. In addition, many volunteers from Harper assisted with hole contests, navigating the course, and serving as hosts. This event raised important scholarship funds for our students which makes it very special.

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

Workforce and Strategic Alliances

- Mark Mrozinski was the feature presenter at a CE and Credit Programming Institute in Cleveland this June. The international institute was sponsored by LERN, the Learning Resources Network, a professional association for continuing education professionals. Mark's day-long presentation was entitled "Noncredit and Credit Collaboration: A Focus on the Community College."

Student Success

- Harper College participated in a 2012 College Readiness Seminar hosted by the Village of Hoffman Estates Youth Commission. Families with students of all ages were invited to join the panel to discuss how academic, social, practical and financial factors impact how they prepare students for college. Part of the panel offered the insights and experiences of three mothers (Deborah Ardison, Sandra Baker and Brenda Davis) who have been extremely successful mentoring their children through the readiness process and then on to college. Barb Levin represented Harper College to lead the discussion on financial tips and practical information about receiving financial aid. At the end of the two and half hour interactive session, the 50 participants were enthusiastic about college, and left with hundreds of resources, tips and bits of information.
- The Center for New Students and Orientation has successfully launched the new MyOrientation tab in the student portal and new students have full access to online appointment booking for all orientation activities – placement testing and advising/registration.
- At the 2012 annual meeting of the Illinois Geographical Society, three Harper students received awards for the Society's Outstanding Two-Year College Student Geographer. The students were: Gabriela Jasovic (nominated by Mukila Maitha), Shaik Mohammad (nominated by Ray Brod), and Jack Wyman (nominated by Veronica Mormino).
- The Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) Accreditation Council accepted Harper College's Business Programs Quarterly Annual report. The accreditation process occurs every ten years, and requires bi-annual quality assurance reports. The report highlights student outcomes, student achievements and overall institutional accountability. ACBSP is a specialized accrediting organization that reviews the quality and integrity of business degree programs across the United States and internationally. The report was chaired by Robin James (Management Department Coordinator) and Dominique Svarc (Accounting Department Coordinator).
- Kathleen Canfield has been selected to participate in the Leadership Advancement Program for the National Association of Colleges and Employers for 2012-2013.
- The Illinois Community College Student Activities Association (ICCSAA) presented Michael Nejman with an unexpected honor upon his retirement. There have established the annual *Michael Nejman Excellence in Programming Award*. The ICCSAA is a state-wide group that has been in existence for 34 years and has a membership of 25 community colleges. This is

only the second “named” award in the association’s history; the first was the *Ed Snyder Merit Book Award*, which Harper has won each year since its inception.

- Convocation was held May 10 celebrating student academic success. Awards went to 27 students with 4.0 grade point averages, 28 Honors program graduates, two students who received Jack Kent Cooke Foundation undergraduate Transfer Scholarships, two students selected for the All Illinois Academic Team for Phi Theta Kappa, two Kappa Beta Delta award winners, and the students selected for the James Brown memorial Honors Scholarship and the two Motorola Solutions Foundation Awards for Excellence.
- The Adult Educational Development Department hosted its spring workshop; 44 faculty and staff attended the workshop titled “AED Explores the Americas.” Veronica Mormino, Associate Professor and Chair of the Geography department, presented at the workshop. Faculty and staff discussed how geography influences immigration, sociology, politics, and economics. The discussions also included how to incorporate this content into the AED curriculum.
- Student Development faculty and staff members, Kathi Nevels, Sheryl Otto, and Eric Rosenthal co-presented “Project Success: Using Early Alert and Case Management to Maximize At-Risk Students’ Success” at the inaugural Illinois Academic Advising Association (ILACADA) conference in Joliet in May.
- With the theme of “building community by engaging students,” Student Activities hosted the annual Student Awards Night in May. The event recognized 130 student leaders with 147 awards for their accomplishments this year. About 320 people attended the event. Highlights included: a Speech to Entertain by gold medal winner Shauna Jungdahl; “Seasons of Love” sung by the RENT cast with Kevin Long on piano; and a Finale featuring Kailey Turner singing “Defying Gravity” from *Wicked* and the Harper Dance Company, with a key role performed by Dr. Ken Ender.
- Six student athletes were nominated for NJCAA academic awards this year. The nomination criteria for these awards are as follows: 1) must have completed three full-time semesters and a minimum of 45 semester credit hours; 2) must have participated in at least one season at the varsity level at the college from which he/she is nominated; 3) nomination must be made during academic year in which participation occurred.
 - NJCAA Pinnacle Award for Academic Excellence (4.00 GPA)*
 - Marni Gonnering- Volleyball (4.0) Summa cum Laude
 - Mitshi Ishioka - Women’s Basketball (4.0)
 - NJCAA Award for Superior Academic Achievement (3.80 – 3.99 GPA)*
 - Amanda Herdegen - Women’s Soccer (3.95) Summa cum Laude
 - NJCAA Award for Exemplary Academic Achievement (3.60 – 3.79 GPA)*
 - Thomas Ehrlich - Football (3.65)
 - Lindsey Pickle - Volleyball (3.60)
 - Kelly Sommers - Volleyball (3.78)

Information Technology

- Building on an already strong partnership between Motorola Solutions and Harper College, the College recently signed a contract with Motorola to provide a state of the art wireless

network which will provide fast, reliable internet and network access for students, staff, and visitors. As mobile technologies become a routine component of the learning environment, the speed, availability, and reliability of our wireless infrastructure is becoming increasingly more critical. In a June 2011 survey, almost 80% of the student respondents indicated they use a laptop computer for college work and over half of those same students indicated they use their smart phones for Harper related work. 90% of these students confirmed that faster and more reliable internet access was important and improving Harper's wireless network access was their top priority for future improvements.

This new wireless system will expand the College's existing partnership with Motorola Solutions. This partnership provides access to some of the latest technologies as they are developed by Motorola Solutions. Motorola is also taking special interest in the success of Harper's new wireless system by assigning several of their top corporate technical experts to personally oversee our installation. Motorola's leading edge technologies combined with their expert technical support will provide our students, faculty, administration, and Campus Police, with a state of the art wireless experience.

- Developed a publically available Harper College people directory application that is accessible from the College website and mobile application. The directory provides College employee information to students and others with access to the web or the mobile application.
- Two classrooms are piloting a new software-based technology control system. The primary goal of this new system is to make it easier and more intuitive for faculty to control the various technologies installed in classrooms. In addition, this new system takes advantage of the network capabilities inherent in most new multimedia technology and eliminates the need for expensive, proprietary hardware that traditional "smart classroom" control systems require. Feedback is being gathered from the faculty in these two classrooms to help guide future plans for enhancing Harper's classroom technologies.
- The project to purchase and implement Optimum Premier was completed, providing Dining Services staff with an enhanced food inventory management. The system provides Dining Services with support for menu planning, food inventory, and other essential functions of the Department.
- In partnership with the Associate Provost and Enrollment Services, completed investigation and implementation of changing parts of term in the Student Information System, providing a less complex view of current academic terms to the student. The number of terms presented to students who are searching for classes has been reduced from all terms to all active terms in an attempt to make it easier to find available sections.

Physical Plant

- At the May 21 Village of Palatine Council Meeting, Dr. Ender and Tom Crylen presented a brief overview of our Campus Master Plan. The College expressed its appreciation for the strong partnership it has been able to enjoy with the Village. The presentation identified upcoming capital projects, including the roadway and parking lot improvements currently underway on the north side of campus. The presentation was very well received by both council members and attendees.

Finance

- The Facility Rental Task Force provided recommendations to standardize and centralize campus facility rental scheduling, processes, support, and rates. Based on the recommendations, a new centralized Conference and Event Services function is being formed. Thom Lange will manage the function, in addition to retaining his current responsibilities. Thom's primary reporting will remain to the Dean of Student Affairs, but he also will take direction from the Manager of Retail Services for this new function. The goal is to have processes in place for internal facility rentals by July 1, external facility rentals by August 15, and after required software upgrades, to be on one common rental system (R25) by December 31, 2012.

We will be busy in July and August as we prepare for the beginning of the Fall term. This is a unique time on a college campus when we welcome many new students and help them as they begin on their path to completion.

As I close this month's report, I reflect on the great accomplishments of the last academic year. These include the development of new programs, a record number of graduates, notable transfer scholarships offered to Harper students, athletic accomplishments, awards in our Speech and Debate, Fashion, Political Science, Graphics and other programs, accolades for our budget and financial statement preparations, and many other individual recognitions received by our faculty and staff.

I am indeed a proud President of a very special institution.

Ken