

President's Report

July 2011

Tom Dowd, President of the Faculty Senate, remarked to me last week, "the summer is passing us by!" That is certainly the way feels. In just four weeks, we will be conducting our annual All Campus meeting and preparing for the start of classes the following week. The summer has, indeed, flown by.

We have been busy. Our enrollment services and orientation staff have been constantly admitting and enrolling the fall class. In addition, students are being tested/assessed for placement into their classes. The Center for New Students and Orientation is busy conducting orientation sessions for both new students and their parents. To complement our student success agenda, the orientation theme this year is *Finish What You Start*. To date, we have enrolled 8,779 students (headcount) which represents a 3.72% increase over last year. In terms of FTE, we are experiencing a 3.35% increase as compared to this time last year.

Our Office of Student Financial Assistance is experiencing a record number of applications for aid. At the same time, they are undergoing an extensive review of their operations. Hats off and kudos to our new Financial Aid Director, Laura McGee, who is doing a fantastic job addressing a myriad of loose ends, developing training programs, and working with consultants. She has brought a level of expertise to the operation that is appreciated by all. Thank you, Laura!

The summer InZone program has experienced a dramatic increase in enrollment this year. It's wonderful seeing these youngsters on campus. Remaining open on Fridays during the summer has contributed to this increase. It is worth noting that while most faculty and staff leave at noon on Fridays, InZone and several other programs are operating a full day.

We have been experiencing increased costs for food, which is adversely impacting the cafeteria and catering services at Harper. Specifically, the Producer Price Index for finished consumer foods has increased 20.8% over the past five years and our labor costs also continue to rise. Although efforts have been made to contain costs, Dining Services and Catering have been operating at a deficit. It has been more than five years since the College instituted overall price increases in this area. With a goal to provide quality food at market comparable prices and at least break even, effective by August 15, 2011, there will be an average price increase of 9.1% in Dining Services and 8.3% in Catering. This decision was not made lightly; we understand that many of our students need affordable meal options. We will continue to offer choices that appeal to differing budgets and tastes.

Below are some highlights of the work being accomplished throughout the College.

Student Success

- Three Harper Graphic Arts students were honored at a scholarship dinner at COD. The Chicago Litho Club awarded Sabina Pacula-Cwanek \$1500; Adam Panek \$1000; Cheryl Banas \$750. Congratulations!
- Compared to the previous academic year, duplicated 2010-11 Academic Advising and Counseling Center student-counselor face-to-face contacts increased by 8.4%.
- The Women's Program collaborated with Women Employed to assist with a conference held in June 2011. The conference "Student Parent Support Symposium '11" promotes the advancement of support services in higher education for single parents, low-income parents and families. Also, the Women's Program was featured in *the Women Employed Clear Connections* newsletter as a "Promising Practice."
- The 40th Annual Dinner & Jazz event was held on June 22, bringing together more than 400 people, including Harper students, staff, faculty, and annuitants, as well as members of our community. The show featured the Ken Spurr Jazz Ensemble, featuring several special guest performers such as Harper Hawk Idol winner Linda Collins, and American Idol's Haley Reinhart's mom and dad, Harry and Patti.
- A concert featuring Austin guitarist Alejandro Escovedo was held on June 30. The Chicago Tribune critic Howard Reich called Escovedo's recent performance at the Symphony Center as one of "the best concerts of the year." To see him in the intimate surroundings of the Performing Arts Center was a rare treat; 256 people attended the performance.
- Sam Giordano, Assistant Professor in Fire Science Technology, was recertified by the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal as a Fire-Arson Investigator. Sam also was recertified-licensed by the Illinois Department of Public Health as a Paramedic.
- State Representative Michelle Mussman, of the 56th District, visited the numerous simulation mannequins in Harper's simulated hospital during a tour on June 7. "This is a really incredible learning environment" she commented during her visit.
- Provost Judy Marwick hosted the Board of the National Council of Instructional Administrators. The Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs from colleges across the country toured our facilities and commented on the immersive environment of the simulation hospital.
- Joanne Leski, Professor of Nursing, was reappointed to serve as a member of the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) Review Panel for Associate Degree Programs, fall 2011-spring 2013.
- Several Career Coordinators assisted with a graduate course from June 20 – 24 for high school and college counselors. They presented information about the labor market, future career options, and how certificates and degrees prepare students to advance up a career ladder.

- During 2010-2011, 5,925 COMPASS tests were administered to students from 14 area high schools. This includes 12 high schools and two alternative schools from District 200, District 211 and District 214.
- As of June 17, the Testing Center had tested 835 new full-time students in FY 2011, compared to 533 full-time students tested for the same time period in FY2010, an increase of 302 students tested.
- Computer Information Systems Professor Sue Bajt's article "Web 2.0 Technologies: Applications for Community Colleges" was published on June 22, 2011, in the peer-reviewed journal, *New Directions for Community Colleges*. This chapter is part of a special issue for summer 2011 on Technology Management, and provides an overview of Web 2.0 technologies and considerations of their potential to transform the way education is delivered, particularly for the Millennial Generation.
- Elizabeth Minicz, Professor in Adult Education Development/Nonnative Literacy, was elected President of the Glenside Public Library District Board of Trustees on May 19.
- WOW! Ted Joans Lives! video production created with Liberal Arts Professor Kurt Hemmer, received three separate awards: an Honorable Mention at the Los Angeles International Underground Film Festival, the Platinum Best In Show award from the Aurora Awards, and the Grand Festival Award-Arts from The Berkeley Film and Video Festival.
- The Writing Center experienced a 4% increase in student contacts during the 2010-11 school year.
- Success Services for Students experienced a 5.5% increase in student contacts during 2010-11. Learning Specialists presented information to 120 classes throughout the year. The Test Performance Analysis session continues to be the most highly attended of the fourteen sessions offered to students. This year over 700 students completed a test analysis, which allows them to review their test and learn new strategies to help them improve on subsequent tests.

Physical Plant

- It is with regret that I inform you of the passing of Mr. Israel Hernandez. Israel passed away on Monday, July 11. He was an active employee in the Custodial Department and had worked for the College since 1996.

Information Technology

- *Harper College Mobile Application* – The new College mobile application was placed into production in Apple's Application Store, making it accessible to anyone with an iPhone, iPad or iPod Touch device. The application provides maps, events, news, and access to the library, Blackboard and social media. The Android and Blackberry markets are to follow shortly.

- *Alumni Records to Foundation System* – Information Technology created a process to extract student records from the Student Information System, perform validation on these records, and send to the College’s Foundation, where alumni outreach can be performed.
- *Net Price Calculator* – Information Technology developed a Net Price Calculator for the Financial Aid office in order to provide students the ability to obtain estimates on the cost of college. The program will be available in the Student Portal.
- *Faculty Credit Hour Automation* – Changes were made, per specification, to the faculty credit hour automation programs in Oracle; these changes provide a systematic process to apply professional development credit to faculty for completion of awardable activities.
- *System Upgrades* – The Student Information System database was upgraded to the 11G version. Additionally, during the past month, the Bookstore system database was upgraded.

Finance

- *Textbook Requirements and Pricing* – The Bookstore and IT have completed a project that allows students to access textbook requirement information and textbook pricing from the student schedule detail web page and from the online course schedule. This makes it easier for students to view textbook requirements which are customized to their course schedule.

I have been giving a number of speeches to various local clubs and organizations lately including the Rotary Club of Schaumburg/Hoffman Estates and the Barrington Breakfast Rotary Club. In addition, I have been invited to address the Schaumburg Business Association’s Economic Council. I have also been invited to serve on the Board of Directors for the Woodfield Chicago Northwest Convention Bureau, and I accepted that appointment.

Cathy and I hosted a very successful “Art Walk” last week with Harper friends, Board members and Foundation Board members. Our curators did a very nice job explaining the highlights of Harper’s art collection as we toured the campus. We ended the evening with a casual supper and conversation. In a few weeks, Cathy and I will be hosting retired faculty members for tea and golf. This will be an opportunity for us to share our Harper experiences and get to know one another better. We both enjoy these “advancement activities” and see ourselves doing much more of this as we *Go Forward*.

On Thursday, July 21, Cathy and I will host our international students at the house for a picnic. We did this last year and thoroughly enjoyed meeting more than 50 international students who attend Harper. They enjoyed our dogs, the garden, and the food! The students bring their “native” experiences into our home and we mutually learn from one another. It’s an enjoyable activity for both of us.

So the summer is in full swing. My hope is that everyone is soaking up the warmth and sun; my guess is that it will be a good memory in February!

Ken