

President's Report

November 2011

Last week we honored our employees who served in the armed forces during our annual "Employee Day" which coincides with the national Veterans Day observance. More than 25 Harper veterans received a sustained standing ovation from their colleagues for their service to our country. It was very heartwarming to say the least and made me proud to be a Harper College employee!

Earlier this month the College's *Annual Report* was printed and mailed to Harper College friends, employees and stakeholders. Special thanks Phil Burdick, Mike Barzacchini and Sandra Minich for their outstanding work on the timely production of this important publication. The report is an excellent summation of our success to-date regarding the College's strategic plan and the outstanding work of our Foundation.

We have had several significant activities over this last month. First, we want to congratulate our student, Jim Tufts, and our Provost, Dr. Judy Marwick, for their excellent presentation to the Congressional STEM Education and Community College Caucuses in Washington D. C. Their presentation was quite a credit to community college-sponsored undergraduate research and specifically to Harper College. Jim and Dr. Marwick will provide us with a sample of their presentation at the Board meeting this month.

We also celebrate the achievement of our Cross Country Team as they were crowned National Champions in non-scholarship competition last weekend in New York. We will be honoring these athletes and their coach at the Board table this week.

Also this month, we received long awaited data regarding the remediation needs of our incoming class of freshman students who began this past fall. As the Board knows, we have been conducting early assessment activities in the high schools to encourage all students to complete a math course in their senior year. It appears that these efforts are paying off as we have seen a 6% reduction in remediation needs in college-level math over this last year. We intend to build on this success as we move to scale these interventions at each of our partner high schools.

Over the last week, and in the weeks to come, scores of our employees have been or will be engaged in meetings that will solicit their input into policy formulation for financial management as well as the targets we will recommend for the Institutional Effectiveness Measures. These

conversations have been educational for the participants and instructive for the members of the Institutional Planning Committee who have been charged with assisting me with making policy recommendations to the Board. I want to thank Sheila Quirk-Bailey, and Kelly Page and Darlene Schlenbecker of our College's Accountability Team, and Linda Frank and Bret Bonnstetter of our Institutional Planning Committee, for working so diligently to put a campus-wide action plan together to garner this input. They are doing an outstanding job mobilizing the input in a context that is bringing key individuals and campus thought leaders together. We are working well as a college community in this regard.

In early December, we will host the inaugural meeting of the steering committee that will guide our analysis of shared governance. This committee will be populated by our current Oversight Committee, chair of the College Assembly, representatives from each of our employee groups and our student body. I look forward to working with them over the next 18 months as we evaluate our current governing processes and develop a set of "design criteria" for that evaluation.

At the end of October I participated in a two-day Illinois President's Council workshop/retreat in Galena. One of the highlights of the program was an extended address by Dr. Walter Bumphus, President and CEO of the American Association of Community Colleges. Dr. Bumphus was very generous with his praise for Harper and specifically our "completion" agenda. It is clear that national leaders are paying attention to our work and cheering for our success. We look forward to hosting Dr. Bumphus when he visits Harper in February to take part in our joint workshop with the Foundation Board and Mr. Greg Brown, President of Motorola Solutions.

Below are some notable activities and accomplishments from the past month.

Student Success

- Harper College hosted the annual Learning Communities Conference in Chicago on November 3, 4, and 5. Harper College is part of consortium of six colleges and universities dedicated to active learning communities. This year we hosted the 16th annual conference in Chicago, Shared Learning on a Shared Earth. The conference included 55 sessions and hosted 240 attendees from 81 colleges and universities across the nation, representing 2- and 4-year colleges and universities. Congratulations to Barb Solheim, Professor of Philosophy, Richard Middleton-Kaplan, Professor of English and Humanities and Darlene Niebuhr, Schedule and Curriculum Specialist for coordinating an outstanding conference.
- The second One Book, One Harper event titled Finding Your Muse: Harper Authors and the Creative Writing Process, was held on Thursday, October 27, 2011. Over 100 people including students, faculty, staff and community members attended the event. The authors talked about their experiences in writing, and the audience asked various questions related to the writing process. The One Book, One Harper initiative is a collaborative effort to encourage students, faculty and staff to read one book and to participate in a variety of academic, cultural and social activities related to the book.
- Harper recently developed a transfer partnership which will allow students indicating an early commitment to transfer to DePaul University to have their DePaul degree requirements locked in for three years.

- Dr. Eric Rosenthal, Director of Academic Advising and Counseling, authored *William Rainey Harper College New Counselor Training Program*, which was published in a monograph-Academic Advising Administration: Essential Knowledge and Skills for the 21st Century- produced by the National Academic Advising Association. Harper's program was listed as an Exemplary Practice in the monograph.
- Robin James, Instructor in Management, and Kathi Nevels , Assistant Professor in Student Development, presented Going Mobile: Creating Student-Centered Career Pathways Using Social Networking. Both Robin and Kathi were recognized at the annual Illinois Community College Faculty Association Conference in Springfield, IL.
- The Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony was held on Thursday, October 20. Dr. Ender welcomed over 180 guests to the induction ceremony of 84 new members. Margaret Bilos, Associate Professor of Speech, gave the keynote address. Along with a strong commitment to Scholarship (3.5 grade point averages), PTK also represents a commitment to Leadership, Fellowship and Service. There are over 800 PTK members on campus.
- Bobby Summers (Chair, Political Science) hosted the Fall Conference for the Illinois Council for the Social Studies (ICSS) at Harper College on October 14. This conference was a great success and was attended by 159 high school social studies teachers. The theme of the conference was Democracy and Diversity.
- During the month of October, the Harper College Library sponsored the 18th Annual Holiday Children's Book Drive. Eight hundred and eleven (811) new and gently used children's books were collected. The books were donated to two agencies that are located in the Harper College District; the Marletta Darnall Schaumburg Child and Family Center and Elk Grove Township.
- In an effort to build community, engage students, and inform them of important current issues, Student Activities hosted four weeks of special programming as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Week, Rainbow Week, Spirit Week (in relationship to the Twin Bowl), and Disability Awareness Month. Over 500 students participated in these events, and all but Spirit Week had specific connections to the classroom.
- Harper College hosted the PICU (Private Illinois Colleges and Universities) Transfer Fair on October 26. Representatives from 32 colleges and universities were on hand to answer students' questions about transferring from Harper to their next destination school.
- Access & Disability Services partnered with Student Activities to offer several events during October's Disability Awareness Month at Harper. The month was capped-off with a powerful presentation by veteran and world champion paralympian Melissa Stockwell. More than 125 campus and community members attended events.
- International Education Week was held from October 31 through November 4. There were 16 programs offered throughout the week. An estimated 750 people took part in our events across Harper's campuses. In addition to the week of events, three international education experts, Dr. Zinta Konrad, Dr. Linda Gruber and Mr. John Halder,

were on campus to review our current international education programs and make recommendations for a strategic plan to deepen our efforts in preparing students to live and work in a global society.

- Harper hosted the NJCAA Region IV Volleyball Championship Tournament on 10/29/2011, and Athletic Director Doug Spiwak served as Tournament Director.
- Thirteen student athletes from the fall teams earned All-Conference honors, and 16 student athletes were awarded All-Region.
- Five fall sports have completed their regular seasons:
 - Women's Volleyball – Final record 35-13 (10-2, 2nd N4C), 3rd Region IV
 - Women's Soccer – Final record 9-7 (4-3, 2nd N4C), 2nd Region IV
 - Men's Soccer – Final record 5-8 (5-4, 2nd N4C), 5th Region IV
 - Men's and Women's Cross Country-NJCAA Region IV DIII Champions (Men); Men's Cross Country competes in the DIII Nationals on November 5, 2011
 - Football is currently 4-6 (1-6 MFC)

Workforce and Strategic Alliances

- The Continuing Education area offered massages via Living Social, a nationwide promotional provider of experience-based events. In the first two days of the offer, we sold out our offering of 800 massage appointments. This is where our massage therapy students complete their clinical hours. Other offers will be tested in this venue in the future.

Information Technology

- As part of the process to have faculty record student attendance at midterm, a program was developed that generates an email notification to the students being marked as “not attending” to advise them of their status, adding another layer of outreach to students.
- Deployed AccuTrack to the M Building to track student-athletes in and out of mandatory study hall. Also implemented AccuTrack in the Tutoring Center to track student's use of tutors, including frequency, usage patterns, and other factors. The AccuTrack deployment to the Tutoring Center took many months to complete and required much work from the Tutoring Center and IT staff. The system provides significant enhancements in automation to the Center.
- Developed a construction web site to provide a weekly newsletter as well as project descriptions. The information is accessible from the employee portal, student portal, and via electronic distribution of the weekly newsletter. The construction information will be added to the mobile platform in the next upgrade.
- Upgraded the dental hygiene software, Emago, to the latest release providing a more stable platform and several desired enhancements for the Department.

Finance

- The annual audit was issued in October. The College received an “unqualified opinion,” which means the financial statements are presented in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) encourages government entities to go beyond the minimum GAAP requirements and prepare a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) that supports the spirit of transparency and full disclosure. Last year, Harper prepared its first CAFR and was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The College will submit this year’s CAFR for review in GFOA award program.
- With the help of Marketing Services, the Harper Bookstore has changed its name to the Harper Store. While it certainly sells and rents books, it is much more than just a bookstore. It also sells educational supplies and course materials, college spirit wear and imprinted gift items, computers, software, and other general merchandise. Educational materials provided are no longer just textbooks, as new technologies drive new formats such as video streaming, DVD telecourse rentals, e-books, print-on-demand, digital course downloads, and more. The bookstore has become more of an “educational outfitter” and the Harper Store name better reflects what it is, and how it continues to evolve.

Human Resources

- The Office of Human Resources coordinated Harper College’s Employee Day activities on Friday, November 11. The morning program included recognition of Veterans Day, including Harper College veterans, and a keynote address about “Working with Millennial Students.” The afternoon program featured a variety of concurrent sessions focusing on employee wellness, well-being, and individual personal development.
- Dr. Ron Ally recently served as a member of the Higher Learning Commission accreditation team that visited the University of Arkansas Community College.

Over the past weekend, Cathy and I had the pleasure of attending Harper’s fall production of *Rent*. It was a wonderful experience. The production was first class. We are fortunate to have such a talented pool of actors and musicians. I want to express my gratitude to Laura Pulio-Colbert who directed this impressive production.

As we head into the Thanksgiving holiday, Cathy and I wish all of Harper College a holiday filled with family and friends. Thank you for this exceptional opportunity to be a part of a very special community of folks who make a difference.

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