

President's Report

November 2015

Some are asking: Where did the fall semester go? It's hard to imagine that we are a week away from the Thanksgiving holiday. October and thus far November have been delightful months; our students and staff have enjoyed the campus grounds far more than in recent years. Something to be thankful for!

As I have traversed the campus this fall, I have noted that D Building is transforming into a beautiful facility. The new roof is on, the windows are installed, the rotunda almost closed in—great progress is being made. The concrete has been poured for the “pedestrian” mall on the north side of D Building and the graduation venue is almost complete. We will use the venue for next spring's graduation ceremony and we will begin occupying the building next summer with classes scheduled for the fall.

We continue to closely monitor the budget stalemate in Springfield. Thus far, the College has continued to support MAP grants which directly help our students, and we continue to run all of the Adult Education programs, despite funding not coming from the State. We shall do so again in the spring with the sincere assumption that we will be fully reimbursed for the costs associated with these programs. If this turns out not to be the case, we will need to reexamine program support going forward. Likewise, we believe that we will receive some portion of the State's base operating grant for community colleges. However, it is appearing more and more likely that we will not receive 100% of that funding. Currently we are managing because we have strong reserves. However, once reserves are spent, they are gone and we need to take all of this into consideration as we contemplate the FY17 budget and revenue sources.

We are building out the personnel infrastructure (leadership and teams) to implement the goals of our recently developed strategic plan. We are excited that the plan presents the opportunity for the College to scale many aspects of the student success/completion agenda. We are tying performance metrics of the plan to graduation, transfer, persistence, and retention rates of our students, many of which exist via our Institutional Effectiveness Measures (IEMs). We believe that high success in all of those areas will lead to increased enrollment of our students. This is important work for the College.

Earlier this week, we celebrated the naming of Building X the “Foglia Center for Nursing and Allied Health.” This is to recognize the tremendous investment the Foglia's have made in our Promise Program. We are so thankful to them as well as all of the investors in the program. The registration for the initial cohort of Promise Scholars is currently underway; students will register through December 15. We are also recruiting business partners for our Promise Program. We are asking that these partners become acquainted with our Promise criteria and help reinforce the importance of these attributes. They are also being asked to explain career paths that

students may not be acquainted with. Ultimately, Promise Scholars represent the workforce of the future for these employers. Our goal is to enlist 100 business partners over the next several months.

On November 19, the College will participate in a disaster drill focused on strategies used when there is an active shooting incident on campus. Recent events are prompting schools districts across the country to prepare in case we are confronted with such incidents. Widespread communications have been sent regarding the drill, but undoubtedly some will not be aware that it is a drill. Regardless, the drill has prompted many meaningful discussions regarding actions that can be taken in these circumstances.

Two weeks ago, on a rainy blustery day, Harper hosted the Division II and III regional Cross Country running event. I attended and was so pleased our men came in first overall and our women took second. Just last Saturday, the teams traveled to Massachusetts to participate in the Nationals and once again the men's team took first place and women second place. For the men, this was the fifth consecutive National Championship! We will invite both teams to the Board meeting in December to recognize their accomplishments.

The College has been involved and busy over the last month. The highlights of these efforts are below:

Student Success

- The Fire Science Technology program is now nationally recognized by Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE). This recognition certificate is an acknowledgement that Harper College has met all standards of excellence established by FESHE professional development and the National Fire Academy under the United States Fire Administration.
- Our Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence, Jimrex Byamugisha, was invited to speak at several schools in West Virginia this month. Professor Byamugisha travelled to Bluefield State College, Pikeview High School, and American National University. Byamugisha also visited the Sister Cities leadership team in Dixon, IL. Given his interest in agriculture and manufacturing, he made a side trip to Moline, IL to experience the John Deere Pavilion. He also made a presentation at Morton College. On Harper's campus, Byamugisha has maintained a steady pace of presentations visiting classes in ESL, Sociology, and Anthropology. He was also invited to participate in meetings of DREAM and the International Student Club.
- The Office of International Education hosted nine events during our annual International Education Week (Nov 2-6) celebration. The programs were well attended by over 250 faculty, staff, and students.
- RAC Harper student, Zachary Drakert, won 1st place in The Pipe Fitters' Local Union 597 2nd Annual HVAC Contest for Vocational/Junior College Students. This competition was held at the Local Union 597 Training Center in Mokena, Illinois on October 31. The contest included a 50 question exam in basic HVAC/R industry knowledge, electrical schematic circuit wiring, and a practical piping/soldering project. Zachary Drakert, Quinn A. Wyskochil and Jesus Ramirez participated in the competition representing the RAC program. The students were accompanied by Jose A. Vital, program coordinator and Gary Kane, adjunct instructor.

- The One Stop team resolved 98% of all in-person issues at first point of contact during the months of June-September 2015 (a total of 8,525 students and families). First point of contact resolution is important when measuring student service in a One Stop model as it speaks to the efficiency and effectiveness of the staff serving the students, and ensures that students stay on path in navigating critical enrollment processes.
- There was a 15% increase in the number of applicants entering the spring 2016 Nursing Program over last year. All seats were filled, and interested applicants are being encouraged to apply now for the fall 2016 program.
- Plans are underway to begin accepting applications for the new Military Medical Corpsman to Practical Nurse Certificate Program which will be offered through Harper College in spring 2016. This program is the result of collaboration with the Illinois Department of Veteran's Affairs and the National Governors Association for Veterans, and is for students who have completed appropriate training and seek to earn a practical nurse certificate. Harper is one of four colleges in Illinois that offer the program. We look forward to working with current military and veterans who are planning to continue their training to prepare for the licensure exam as a Licensed Practical Nurse.
- New to the sonography web sites this month is the link to an online information meeting which allows prospective applicants to hear about careers in sonography and to learn specifics about Harper's Diagnostic Cardiac Sonography and Diagnostic Medical Sonography degree programs. Students are encouraged to attend the on-campus meeting, however, the new online video version is a convenient option for satisfying the meeting attendance admission requirement when circumstances prevent attendance at the in-person meeting. This online version was truly a cooperative effort. Thanks to those from Marketing Services and Health Careers who worked to make it a reality.
- Dr. Joanne Leski presented her poster, "Promoting Reflection with a Clinical Evaluation Tool" at the National League for Nursing Education Summit, September 30 - October 3 in Nevada.
- Diagnostic Cardiac Sonography student, Dmitriy Velikov, was awarded the Cheryl Dwyer Memorial Scholarship. Cheryl Dwyer was a sonographer and applications specialist with Hewlett Packard. She was instrumental in helping the college establish the Cardiac Sonography Program in 1993.
- The Testing Center began administering ALEKS in September as the College's official math placement tool. ALEKS replaces the COMPASS Math test which was first piloted at Harper College in 1994. Research conducted in partnership with Vanderbilt in 2014 shows that students placing into math courses by way of ALEKS placed higher and were more likely to receive a "C" or better in their college math courses than students that tested with COMPASS Math.
- Matt McLaughlin (Title III) and Joe Scrima (Testing Center) presented at the 2015 NCTA (National College Testing Association) Conference held in Florida. Their presentation entitled, "My Summer Vacation with ALEKS" highlighted the benefits of the ALEKS math placement tool in supporting student success, as well as an overview of the pilot and corresponding research that was conducted in partnership with Vanderbilt University. This year's conference was the largest in NCTA history, with 500 testing professionals in attendance.

- On October 15, the First Time in College (FTIC) hosted over 500 people at the fall high school open house and received 105 applications. The faculty and staff of Harper College were well represented from diverse disciplines and student support service areas of the college. Prospective families also had the opportunity to hear from a panel of distinguished faculty, including Dr. Judi Nitsch, Pascuala Herrera, Judi Zaplatynsky, and Charlie Roderick.
- On Wednesday, October 14, Juanita Bassler and Tamara McClain presented at the First Generation College Symposium held at Palatine High School. There were about 500 first generation students and parents in attendance. Tamara co-facilitated a workshop for seniors with Shannon O'Brien, College and Career Counselor at Palatine High School.
- On October 28 and 29, Laura Bennett, Student Conduct Officer and Title IX Co-Coordinator, participated in national roundtable discussions addressing violence against women through the student conduct process sponsored by the Department of Education's Office on Violence Against Women in Washington, D.C., to represent the community college perspective on the issue.
- The Community Colleges Culinary Cupcake Competition was held on October 22 at Stonegate Banquet Centre. Students competed for scholarship money provided by Tate and Lyle, manufacturers of Splenda sweetener.
- Athletics has had a great year with the following recognitions: Men's Cross Country: DIII National Champions for the 5th year and Region IV Champions; Women's Cross Country: DIII National Runner-Up and Region IV Champions; Men's Soccer: Conference Champions and Region IV Champions; Women's Soccer: Region IV Runner-Up; and Women's Volleyball: final national ranking #6. Individual recognition was awarded to James Macnider as the Region IV and NJCAA DIII National Coach of the Year.

Facilities Management

- Phase I of the West Campus Infrastructure Project has been completed and the site has been fully restored. This phase included replacing the majority of original utility lines serving the campus that have reached the end of their useful life. Phase II includes similar work relating primarily to the Canning Center and will not commence until a revised construction schedule is provided by the Capital Development Board (CDB).
- The Canning Center (including Hospitality Project) remains on hold until a state budget is approved and CDB authorizes the College to proceed. Estimated escalation cost for the first year is expected to be approximately \$2.4 million and is anticipated to continue at a rate of 4% compounded annually until the project commences.
- Pending Board of Trustees approval in November, replacement of the main sanitary line serving Building A will occur over winter break. The line has failed and needs to be replaced. This work was originally scheduled to be included with the Canning Center project, therefore, funding will be provided from that project.
- Pending Board of Trustees approval in December, necessary replacement of the heat exchangers serving Building M will occur as soon as reasonably possible.

- The Outdoor Amphitheater and Pedestrian Mall Project (graduation/event area) has been substantially completed on time and under budget. A tour of the site by the Board of Trustees is scheduled for 1:00 pm on December 9.
- The Building D Phase II project remains under budget and on schedule for completion before the start of the Fall 2016 semester. The Board of Trustees will tour this project December 9 at 1:00 p.m. with the Outdoor Amphitheater and Pedestrian Mall Project.
- The Advanced Manufacturing Lab project remains under budget and is scheduled for substantial completion by the end of November 2015.

Information Technology

- The Enterprise Systems team partnered with Student Development to complete the configuration and implementation of Degree Work's educational planning system. Degree Works is a web-based tool that helps students and advisors monitor a student's progress toward degree completion. Degree Works compares the College's degree requirements with coursework completed. It provides an easy-to-read worksheet that shows students how courses they have taken count toward degree requirements. Degree Works also clearly identifies courses and requirements still needed to complete a degree.
- The Information Technology department partnered with Student Affairs to complete the pilot of Everfi's Haven online software system, which provides first year students with information intended to create awareness about the critical issues and prevention of sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, and sexual harassment.

Human Resources

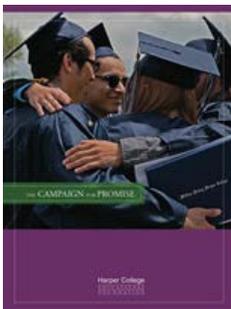
- Additional Board Holiday - During the 2016-17 academic year, there is a weekday (Thursday, December 29, 2016) that is not currently scheduled as a holiday, but will fall in the middle of the scheduled 2016 Winter Break holiday. This day is currently not a scheduled contract day for faculty and classes are not in session. This occurred most recently during both the 1994-95 and 2005-2006 academic years. In both cases, an additional day was granted in order to create a contiguous winter break and to avoid reopening, heating, lighting and providing additional services for this one day during the Winter Break Holiday closure. As has occurred previously, I have approved Thursday, December 29, 2016 as a scheduled Holiday, including it as part of the College's 2016 Winter Break. This action will be communicated to the college community prior to the release of the 2016 Holiday schedule in November 2015. The next time this will occur is in the 2022-2023 Academic Year.

Advancement

- Over 200 scholarship stewardship reports were mailed the week of October 19 to all scholarship donors. These reports detail the activity of the scholarship during the past academic year including the name of the scholarship recipients, award amount; new gifts received and fund balance. This year's reports were designed in-house and printed by the Harper College Print Shop.

- The print edition of the Foundation's newsletter, Catalyst, will be mailed in mid-November. The theme of the fall issue is gratitude and highlights Vince and Pat Foglia and their \$1million gift to the Harper College Promise Program, our Motorola Solutions Awards for Excellence recipients, and the 2015 class of Harper College Distinguished Alumni honorees.
- Thanksgiving cards will be mailed to over 1,000 donors, volunteers and friends to the Foundation. This year's card highlights an image of the Harper College campus taken by Nick Wenzel, a Harper College student.

Marketing Services Highlights



The Campaign for Promise brochure received Honorable Mention in the 2015 Pride of Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District V Awards Program in the category "Best Program in Case Statements/Cultivation Publications." Other institutions recognized in this category include: Miami University of Ohio, University Michigan, University Liggett School, and Bowling Green State University. View a complete list of this year's winners: <http://bit.ly/1kbbNdD>

- Marketing Services collaborated with the Center for New Students Office (CNSO) to produce a series of videos designed to help adult prospective students start successfully at Harper. Five videos will soon be integrated in the CNSO website and cross-promoted and shared on social media and via email in the future. View the videos:
 - Undecided? <https://youtu.be/dFYCRwyv-Aw>
 - Got Credit? <https://youtu.be/0dRJJXE54ME>
 - Testing Confidence <https://youtu.be/M2LqgOBYm90>
 - How to Pay for College <https://youtu.be/m2cAB8ag2jQ>
 - Success Services https://youtu.be/zluA7_ePtZA
- Marketing Services recently produced the first in a series of videos for the LCC (Learning and Career Center). This video is focused at student and prospective student audience. The team is currently working on the second video in the series, targeted at LCC partners. <http://goforward.harpercollege.edu/about/community/lcc/index.php>

Planning and Institutional Effectiveness

- The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Steering Committee is hosting an Accreditation Series Session to engage the College community in conversations around how Harper meets the HLC Criteria for Accreditation. This five-part series begins Wednesday, November 18 with a dialogue that explores Criterion Two: Integrity – Ethical and Responsible Conduct. These monthly sessions will continue through April 2016.
- The Higher Learning Commission conducted multi-location visits to Harper College's Learning and Career Center and Northwest Community Hospital. These visits included the examination of facilities, discussions with administration, faculty and students, and an overall review of programs and services. Feedback on these visits is expected in December 2015.

Workforce and Strategic Alliances

- In collaboration with Harper College, Zurich North America has hired 24 apprentices that will begin working at the company in early January. These students will pursue a two-year degree in Business Administration with a focus in Insurance, as a cohort. A welcome reception was held at Zurich Towers in Schaumburg and Harper College was acknowledged as a critical partner in this apprenticeship program.
- The Job Placement Resource Center posted 141 open positions in October. Most job openings are in customer service, followed by health care, food service and office/administrative support. Outreach efforts continue to inform students and graduates of these job opportunities.
- The Workforce Certification Mobile Lab is being deployed at various locations including a hiring fair at UPS and for training at the Arlington Heights workNet office.
- The Workforce Certification Center at the Harper Professional Center has administered 1,261 exams since July. This represents a 39% increase over last year.

Diversity and Inclusion

- The Diversity & Inclusion Committee, in collaboration with the Office of Diversity & Inclusion, hosted the 12th Annual Diversity Symposium on October 30, 2015. The symposium was attended by more than 240 Harper employees, students, and colleagues from our district high schools and state community colleges. The symposium's focus on issues of domestic and global diversity has sparked a number of reflective conversations on campus. Post symposium feedback indicates an interest in gaining a better understanding of the diversity of the students that we serve and how to best meet their needs. The committee is currently working to collaborate with other organizations across campus to continue these dialogues throughout the year.

Community and Legislative Relations

- Since October, Community Relations has hosted over 250 students from four different schools for campus tours: Carpentersville Middle School in Carpentersville, Brentwood Elementary in Des Plaines, Frost Elementary in Mount Prospect and Devonshire Elementary in Des Plaines. Students visited and participated in activities lead by faculty and staff from Nursing, Manufacturing, Library Services, Business, Facilities, Student Involvement, Career Development, the Police Department, Fire Science, Graphics and Marketing.
- On October 22, Community Relations hosted a reading activity for Salt Creek Elementary (D59) for their Reading Night. Over 40 students participated in an interactive reading corner. The book and materials used for the activity were donated to the school library.
- *Univision Chicago* aired a five-minute segment on Harper student Juan Esquivel, who used to be in a gang. After he was paralyzed in a shooting, Juan decided to turn his life around. Today, thanks in part to his time at Harper; he's a successful professional and sharing his story to inspire others.

- The October/November edition of *Community College Journal* put a spotlight on Harper's Promise Scholarship Program in the article, "A Promising Development." It looks at how Promise scholarships across the country are attempting to reduce barriers to college access and completion. In the article, which includes a photo from the kickoff event held in March, Michelé Robinson emphasizes to writer Dennis Pierce the importance of partners when launching such an ambitious endeavor. "This has to be a partnership," she said. "It's not something that colleges can do by themselves."
- *Daily Herald* reporter Kerry Lester wrote about the Wendell Jones Awards Breakfast, which honored retired Police Chief Mike Alsup for his work in domestic violence awareness and prevention. Lester wrote a follow-up column about the recognition breakfast and included an anecdote that Ron Ally shared about his mother's longtime work in the area of domestic violence.
- The *Daily Herald* ran a front-page article about the various college and university construction projects that are in limbo because of the state budget impasse. Of those included, Harper is owed the most funding. *NBC 5 Chicago* reported on the article during its nightly news broadcast and mentioned Harper.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Jimrex Byamugisha spending the fall semester on campus. It includes a photo of Jimrex and Dr. Ender.
- *Illinois Cops* ran a feature article about how local colleges and universities are enhancing their criminal justice programs. It includes several quotes from program coordinator Wayne Johnson.
- A *Daily Herald* article looked at the state of the small business community. It includes Small Business Development Center Manager Tom Cassell's take on the issue.
- The *Daily Herald* previewed Harper's first Veterans Entrepreneurship Day.
- The *Daily Herald* ran a front-page centerpiece about Harper alum Geoffrey Mikol. Many know Geoffrey from his days in Harper's Life Skills Institute.
- Harper's new partnership with Governors State University, which will allow criminal justice students to earn a bachelor's degree on Harper's campus, was highlighted in a *Daily Herald* article.
- The *Daily Herald's* Suburban Rundown column included an item about Harper's recent Diversity Symposium and the district's changing demographics.
- The *Daily Herald* previewed Harper's production of the classic musical "Gypsy."
- *TribLocal*, the *Daily Herald* and *Patch* ran articles about punk rock icon Exene Cervenka's visit and previewed Harper's events for Disability Awareness Week.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about the website MedicalTechnologySchools.com naming Harper's diagnostic medical sonography programs among the best in the country.
- *TribLocal*, the *Daily Herald* and *Patch* ran articles about Harper's art exhibit featuring the work of Esau McGhee.

- *Inside Higher Ed* quotes Student Conduct Officer Laura Bennett for an article about how institutions are dealing with student athletes accused of sexual misconduct.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article in the sports section about the men's cross country team winning its fifth straight national title and the women's cross country team placing second. Another article highlights Harper's six All-Americans in cross country.

As a reminder, the College will be closed for Thanksgiving Wednesday, November 25 and will reopen on Monday, November 30. Shortly after the Thanksgiving break, students will prepare for final exams and then the winter holiday will be upon us.

As we head into the Thanksgiving weekend we have much to be thankful for. As a country, we also have concerns. Today in the U.S. there are between 4 and 5 million young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 that are either unemployed or not attending school. Many are disenfranchised and have little hope. We must firmly resolve our commitment to assure our students discover their talents and build out their dreams. I truly believe that this is imperative to the stability of our Country and sustainability of the middle class lifestyle. Please join me in committing to address this important issue and assist this generation which represents the future of our nation. We are living the American Dream while many of our most important citizens, our young people, feel as if they have no chance to realize this dream. Let's be thankful for what we have and let us also find ways to extend our blessings to others.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Ken