

THE PHILANTHROPIC
MAGAZINE OF
HARPER COLLEGE

COMMUNITY

CATALYST

SPRING 2023

“Those who are *happiest*
are those who do the most
for *others*”

— Booker T. Washington



FROM THE DESK OF
BRENDA KNOX
HARPER COLLEGE EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION BOARD PRESIDENT



Thank you for helping Harper College students frame their futures with your generous investment.

As President of the Harper College Educational Foundation, my favorite activity is meeting scholarship students and the donors whose generosity positively influences their lives. It is truly a high point to celebrate our student scholars and read, in their words, what donors make possible for them. Thank you for your generosity in helping these dreams become a reality.

The impact of our donors' generosity is reflected best in the grateful words of our scholarship recipients. One student commented, "The support from this scholarship was life-saving." Another student shared, "Without this scholarship, I would not even be able to think about going to school." In fiscal year 2022, the Educational Foundation provided more than

\$6 million in scholarships and grants to more than 2,400 Harper College students.

We greatly value your belief in Harper College Educational Foundation's mission. The generous contributions you entrust in us to support programs and scholarships made a real difference in the impact for students. You are setting a solid path for a future for college students to obtain an education for a better life. You are impacting one student at a time.

Thank you,

24: Average age of Harper student

12,015: Number of students taking credit classes (fall 2021)

56% of students work while attending Harper College (46% of students ages 25 and older work full-time)

51% of Harper students who self-identified as first generation

\$4,005: Average annual cost of tuition for a full-time student

\$6.2 million: Total awarded in 2021–2022 by the Foundation in scholarships, grants and awards

2,052: Number of students receiving a scholarship, grant or award

230: Total Foundation scholarship funds

19: New scholarship funds created by donors in 2021 – 2022

HARPER
by the **NUMBERS**
(2021-2022)



Achieving the Dream recertifies Harper as Leader College of Distinction

Harper College is among just three community colleges in the country named a Leader College of Distinction by Achieving the Dream (ATD), a national nonprofit dedicated to advancing community colleges as hubs of equity and mobility in their communities.

First honored with the prestigious designation in 2020, ATD announced Thursday that Harper has recertified its Leader College of Distinction status.

“To once again be recognized as a Leader College of Distinction under increasingly rigorous criteria is an incredible honor and an important affirmation in our steadfast commitment to growing

a student-centered culture that champions the success of every Harper student,” said Dr. Avis Proctor, Harper College president. “This is challenging work, and our dedicated faculty, staff, administrators and Board of Trustees are embracing the responsibility we have to advance equity and opportunity throughout our communities.”

Find it*
at Harper

Harper College launched the new **Find it*** campaign this spring. The campaign is designed to inspire students to take action and find what’s next in their lives. This could mean opportunity, support, community or a change of pace, a second chance, a better life for their children and more. Whether they’re looking to get back in the game, change careers or change the world, the support of our donors helps our students **Find it*** at Harper College and realize their dreams.



Promise Update

In the fall of 2015, the first public high school freshmen (Class of 2019) were given the opportunity to sign up for the Harper Promise Scholarship Program. During the next four years, the college and community secured more than \$20 million in funding to support the program and to offer a path for students to earn up to two years of tuition at Harper College by working hard in school, graduating on time, attending class and giving back to the community. Currently, there are six cohorts signed up for Promise – the high school classes of 2021-2026. After the Spring of 2021, the first cohort of Promise Scholars completed the program.

We thank the donors who support the Harper Promise Scholarship Program.

HARPER COLLEGE PROMISE PROGRAM

by the **NUMBERS**

(2019–2022)

\$20,909,624

Total amount raised

733

Number of Promise Donors

480

Number of Promise scholars enrolled at Harper as freshmen in the Fall 2020

155

Students who completed all four semesters of the Promise program and graduated from Harper in May 2022

15,625

Community service hours completed by the 155 Promise graduates since 2016

88%

of Promise graduates earned an **Associate in Arts** or an **Associates in Science** degree

92%

of Promise graduates are **planning to transfer to a four-year institution**



FROM THE DESK OF
LAURA J. BROWN
HARPER COLLEGE EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION CHIEF ADVANCEMENT OFFICER



The Educational Foundation's mission is to assist donors in making the choices they need to leave a legacy for future generations. The work we do is critical, and it takes the support of so many people to make a difference in the lives of our students. Gifts of every size collectively add to the success of the Foundation's support of Harper College. You are an essential piece of that plan.

The Foundation is an institution dedicated to not only the service we provide to Harper College and students but also the service that we provide to donors. We help connect donors to causes they are passionate about and help make their goals happen. All of these gifts, regardless of size or purpose, have one thing in common: they speak volumes about the life of the donor. That voice continues to speak and be heard long after they no longer have a voice of their own. Each gift becomes a living thing, growing and reaching far beyond anything the donor could have imagined.

Last year, we transitioned to the next era of the Foundation's growth, embarking on a \$30 million scholarship campaign. As of

April 2023, we have raised \$29.5 million toward our campaign goal and launched 45 new scholarship opportunities.

I am motivated to serve the students we support and the employees of the College that gives them hope in the future. One of my favorite authors, J.R.R. Tolkien, said, "All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us." I am so excited to be able to spend my time here, removing financial barriers and helping others achieve their goals.

Everything we achieve results from the leadership and support of the foundation board and the wonderful and amazing donors. You make everything possible!

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura J. Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue background.

Igniting Paths to Success Scholarship supports more than 1,500 Harper students

Harper launched Igniting Paths to Success in the summer of 2021 with the goal of helping 1,000 students from the community access and prioritize higher education for two academic years. Now, nearly two years after the scholarship was created, more than 1,500 students have received support from the scholarship.

The Ignite Scholarship provides full tuition and book vouchers for underrepresented students. Each semester, scholarship recipients must be enrolled in at least six credit hours, meet with their academic advisor, follow a required academic plan and maintain a 2.0 GPA to continue their eligibility for the scholarship.

Here's a snapshot of the students who have received the Ignite Scholarship.

10.9 Average credit hours taken per semester

74% Persistence rate (fall to fall semester)

68% First-generation college students

44% Adult students (over the age of 24)

Donor eases the financial burden of childcare for Harper students

The Shaping Young Minds Scholarship was created in 2019 by former Harper adjunct faculty member Louise Welsh Schrank and her husband, Jeffrey Schrank.

The scholarship was created to be used for tuition at the Harper College Early Childhood Laboratory School for the dependent of a current Harper College student. The scholarship covers the full cost of tuition.

Valeria C. is this year's recipient of the Shaping Young Minds Scholarship. Valeria is a nursing student who moved to the United States seven years ago from Moldova. After finishing her degree at Harper in the fall of 2023, she plans to continue working toward her BSN.

Valeria and her husband have two sons. Her ties to the Harper College Early Childhood Laboratory School go back to when her oldest child (now in elementary school) attended the lab school. During this time, Valeria worked part-time as a medical assistant to help pay for daycare bills but had to quit, given the rigor of the nursing program. This past fall, her youngest son started attending the lab school, with his tuition paid by the Shaping Young Minds

Scholarship. Valeria shares that her son enjoys school, and she acknowledges the amazing group of teachers at the lab school. Valeria says that receiving the Shaping Young Minds Scholarship proved to her and her husband that she is on the right path for their future.

"[Receiving this scholarship] means a lot, it really does, especially in my situation with the nursing program. I can't explain how much this scholarship comes in handy to me and how blessed and lucky I feel myself knowing that out there do exist big-hearted people that do such beautiful acts by sharing care and support to Harper students in achieving their degrees, and one of those students is lucky me!"

The Harper College Educational Foundation offers several scholarships to assist Harper students with daycare tuition. To learn more about supporting Harper students with expenses beyond their tuition, please contact the Educational Foundation at **847.925.6490**.

Donor generosity inspires new scholarships

The Harper College Educational Foundation thanks the donors of these new scholarships for their generosity and for inspiring Harper students to realize their dreams.

Richard L. Duchossois Endowed Scholarship and Richard L. Duchossois Emergency Fund: Created by Kim Duchossois in honor of her father. The scholarship will support veteran or military-connected students studying business or entrepreneurship who have financial need. The emergency fund will provide funding for transportation, childcare, food and housing for students who exhibit immediate financial need for expenses not related to tuition, books or fees.

DivIHN Scholarship: Created by DivIHN Integration, a Technology Consulting Services headquartered in Hoffman Estates, to support underrepresented Harper students. This is an annual scholarship, awarding \$5,000 annually.

HOPE Giving Circle: In early 2023, an anonymous donor made an individual donation of \$10,000 to fully fund one additional HOPE Scholarship for the 2023-2024 academic year. (To learn more about the HOPE scholarship, visit page 8).

Norris D. Smith Endowed Scholarship for Underrepresented Students: Norris Smith, CPA, owns a local consulting business in Inverness, providing a full range of tax preparation, accounting and bookkeeping services. He has had an annual scholarship for several years to support Harper students studying accounting or software development with preference for African American and Latino students. Earlier this year, he endowed the scholarship to ensure it will help future generations of Harper students.



Cockrell Sibling Endowment

In 1996, Betty and Matt Cockrell created an endowed scholarship to support Harper students who worked while taking classes. For more than 25 years, the Betty and Matt Cockrell scholarship has supported nearly 500 Harper College students. As an endowment, it will continue to support future generations of Harper students.

Following in their parent's legacy, Matt Cockrell, Carol Pankros and Liz Wilmes, with their spouses, have created the Cockrell Sibling Endowment to support students who face food insecurities by providing funding for them to have hot, fresh meals while they are on the Harper College campus. Students who utilize the Hawks Care food pantry on the Harper College campus can also receive gift cards to any of the three on-campus dining locations that provide freshly prepared food, including the Cockrell Dining Hall, named after their parents. The Cockrell Sibling Endowment pays for gift cards, which students can use throughout the academic year.

Matt, Carol and Liz share, "We are excited and humbled as we bring family and friends together to support this additional food resource. By addressing this need to qualifying students, we hope they will be even better able to focus on their studies, enhance their education, and pursue their career plans towards a better world."

These three siblings are proud to have been able to support the academic endeavors of so many scholarship recipients over the years. Now, they look forward to helping future generations of Harper students in furthering the overall wellness of Harper College students.

Harper College students face many challenges while pursuing their educational goals. Paying for tuition is just one of them. Basic needs such as transportation, childcare, housing and food expenses can create barriers that prevent Harper students from achieving their dreams. In the fall of 2020, The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice at Temple University surveyed 195,000 college students from 130 two-year schools and 72 four-year schools. Nearly three in five students experienced basic needs insecurity, and 39% of students at two-year institutions said they were affected by food insecurity. Funds like the Cockrell Sibling Endowment help to alleviate these barriers for our students.

If you would like to donate to support students with their basic needs expenses, harpercollege.edu/foundation.

HOPE Giving Circle

Recipient Updates



EMILY ALVIA

This past semester was quite busy, but I really enjoyed all of the content I learned in my classes. I truly am starting to feel like an engineer! I have also gotten a lot out of the extracurriculars I have been a part of. I currently serve as co-president of the Honors Club, of Harper's Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) chapter and as president of the Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Club. I had the opportunity to present at a regional leadership conference through PTK and do an outreach event with WISE. Since I am entering my last semester at Harper, I am finalizing my transfer applications. Currently, I am applying to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Illinois at Chicago. I am so grateful for my incredible mentor, George, who has been so supportive of me. The HOPE Giving Circle has given me so much; I truly cannot express how much it means to me to be a part of this community. Thank you again to all the donors and sponsors who have made this possible!



TAIAH GUES

During the fall of 2022, I participated in four courses while also working part time. Although this was very challenging at times, I have learned so much about effective study practices and time management. In addition to this I have been working hard on my transfer applications as well. I have already submitted my applications to Illinois State, Lake Forest College, and UW-Madison. During the spring semester, I am taking 15 credit hours and am very excited to participate in an astronomy course. Alongside this lab component, I will have the opportunity to further my understanding of the Spanish language and learn more about mathematics education. I am very excited for the spring semester and so thankful to be supported by such an amazing community.



LYDIA SCHULTZ

I'm proud to say that I finished the fall semester maintaining a 4.0 GPA. I applied to DePaul University as a fall 2023 transfer with the intention of participating in a full academic year study abroad program.

This spring semester, I will finish my time at Harper strong with an end goal of straight As with honors, completion of the TESOL certification, and being a recipient of the Global Scholar Distinction.

I will continue my involvement as a senior staff writer for the school newspaper, The Harbinger, and a member of the Honors Society. I am excited to participate in the Honors Society study abroad opportunity in Cuba over spring break! My travel adventures continue. Thank you again for all that you do.



GENEVIEVE WULF

This past semester was a very busy one. In addition to classes and a part-time job, I made the decision to get more involved on campus with the Water Polo Club, Women in Science and Engineering, and the Honors Society. These extracurriculars helped me foster a real connection with my peers, my college and the community outside of Harper! I was also re-elected vice president of the Student Activities Board. Our club put together various educational, cultural, and entertainment events for students, which were a blast to be a part of. This semester, I plan to finish strong. Right now, I'm finishing up my transfer applications for the University of Notre Dame, Loyola University Chicago, University of California San Diego and Northwestern University. My biggest focus will be on transfer applications and on searching for a scientific or medical internship that could help me get my foot in the door for my future career. I graduate in the spring, and I am very eager to start the next chapter of my life. Thank you all so much for your support!

HOPE BY THE NUMBERS

2022/2023 academic year

42

Members

46

Donors

\$320,000

Raised (since inception)

4

Scholarships

(22 total since inception)

\$220,000

in Scholarships Awarded
(since inception)

About HOPE

The HOPE Giving Circle brings together influential women of diverse backgrounds with a common goal of supporting women in achieving their educational goals and empowering them to reach their full potential. Learn more by visiting harpercollege.edu/hope.

THANK YOU TO HOPE SPONSORS:



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Ascension
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Linda J. Lang

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For all you want from your future.



THANK YOU TO OUR HOPE GIVING CIRCLE MEMBERS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT:

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Sheryl Van Anne
Louise Welsh Schrank
Melanie Witt
Dr. Anna Marie Yates
Heather Zoldak

Congrats to Harper College alumna and former HOPE Scholarship recipient, Keely McEnergy on being featured by the University of Houston's Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship, the top undergraduate entrepreneurship program in the country.



Disrupt everything Bauer entrepreneurship undergrad thrives in chaos

Some of the world's most well-known brands were born from disruption — Uber, Google, Tesla. The basic idea: a smaller company with fewer resources challenges an established industry simply by being better at spotting opportunity.

Bauer College entrepreneurship student Keely McEnergy is sort of an expert when it comes to disruption. In her relatively short 22 years, she's challenged expectations and redefined her future, over and over again.

At age 10, McEnergy's parents divorced and both remarried, and as she split her time with two half-brothers and one sister between two households, she first learned that life wasn't always going to be easy. Then, in her junior year of high school, her mother was diagnosed with a rare form of brain cancer. Nine months later, McEnergy's stepfather unexpectedly passed away, and her mother died just a few weeks later.

"I find that the best opportunities for growth come from chaos," she said. "That word, I relate to it very much. At the center of everything, though, you have the power and freedom to choose whatever path you want in life."

McEnergy's path took her from her hometown of Chicago to Houston after high school and junior college. After discovering entrepreneurship as a career option in high school through a business incubator program, she sought out a university entrepreneurship program to complete her BBA and immediately was drawn to Bauer College's Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship.

"I uprooted my entire life from Chicago to come to Houston with the dream of getting into the Wolff Center," McEnergy said, noting that the first thing she did when she arrived on campus was head straight to the program's offices to introduce herself.

She formally applied for the program in Fall 2021 and was selected as one of just 30 students to form the Wolff Center Class of 2023.

"When I got in, I cried so much," McEnergy said. "My experience so far has been unlike anything else. They really focus on building culture and the importance of community, helping each other out and giving back."

It's no surprise McEnergy is thriving within a program that asks her to navigate constant challenges and to pick herself up after a stumble.

"A lot of people didn't think I could get this far and are shocked I've made it with everything that's happened in my life," she said. "I want to keep pushing the boundaries, keep people thinking 'What can Keely do next?'"

This article originally was published on the C.T. Bauer College of Business website. Excerpts reprinted with permission.

Wintrust Scholarship

Harper College and Wintrust share a common vision of supporting the neighborhoods, villages and cities we serve to build a stronger, more vibrant and economically healthy community.

Given the similarities in vision and scope of services, it is no surprise that many Wintrust banks in the Northwest suburbs philanthropically support Harper College students through the Educational Foundation as they pursue their educational goals and dreams of a better life for themselves and their families.

Wintrust supports Harper students by hiring them in their banks, providing guidance and insight through mentoring partnerships, and philanthropically through sponsorship, program and scholarship support.

In 2107, Harper College recognized alumni working at Barrington Bank & Trust. It is estimated that about 20% of the company's workforce has attended Harper at some point – either to earn a degree or certificate or to advance skills through continuing education courses.

Many Barrington Bank & Trust employees donate their time to Harper College by mentoring current students through the One Million Degree program or the Foundation's Corporate Mentoring Program.

Brad Stetson, Chairman/CEO of Barrington Bank & Trust Company, serves on the Harper College Educational Foundation Board of Directors and was instrumental in securing funding for the Wintrust Scholarship, established in 2021.

"What Harper brings to the area is something that's very important, not only for kids coming out of high school but for people of all ages who have the opportunity to advance their skills," Stetson said. "It's a great college, and I'm excited we're part of it."



"The support I've received has been of great use to me because it helps me in a lot of ways. Without [Wintrust's] assistance, I wouldn't be able to afford to continue taking classes, and I wouldn't be able to feel as ambitious as I am now."

Tashonda (Laqua) G.
2022-2023 Wintrust Scholarship Recipient



Harper College welcomes Fulbright Scholar in Residence

This semester, a professor and scholar from the International Islamic University in Islamabad, Pakistan, brings a global perspective to Harper College. Dr. Rabia Ali arrived in Palatine in mid-January to begin her role as a Fulbright Scholar in Residence for five months.

Dr. Ali is chair of the sociology department at her institution in Pakistan and teaches and publishes extensively on gender, culture and leadership.

In exchange, the college community will learn more about global issues and international perspectives. Dr. Ali's residency is a key component of the college's multiyear Global Region of Focus initiative, which incorporates faculty development, campus programming, study abroad and the visiting scholar exchange. With South Asia as the current focus, the Office of International Education is leading an interdisciplinary study centered on this region through 2024.

"By hosting a Fulbright Scholar on campus, we are bringing the world to our students," said Nellie Khalil, associate professor of biology and the Office of International Education's director. "As a community college, many of our students may not have the opportunity to travel internationally, so this gives them the ability to engage with a global expert in various academic disciplines."

Dr. Ali will serve as a guest lecturer in various courses in Harper's sociology department and other academic disciplines, presenting on a broad array of topics, including gender-based violence; globalization and the changing Pakistani culture; political violence and its intersection with racism; the role of women in Pakistan; political and economic issues in Pakistan; comparisons between Pakistan and other South Asian countries; and climate change.

Dr. Ali represents the third Fulbright Scholar to visit campus, following in the path of Fulbright Scholars from Uganda and Costa Rica. They supported previous Global Regions of Focus centered on Africa (2014-2017) and Latin America (2017-2020).

As a result of Harper College's commitment to international education, the Global Region of Focus initiative has been awarded grants for program development and funding for student passports, along with a prestigious Senator Paul Simon Spotlight Award for Campus Internationalization in 2018.

As a result of Harper College's commitment to international education, **the Global Region of Focus initiative** has been awarded grants for **program development** and **funding for student passports**, along with a prestigious **Senator Paul Simon Spotlight Award** for Campus Internationalization in 2018.

Harper supports global learning in the classroom and beyond

A meaningful "thanks" from alumna

Dana Romero (A.A. '19) counts several highlights from her time as a student at Harper College. She was secretary of the Psychology Club, a member of Phi Theta Kappa, an orientation leader, in the Honors Program and maintained a near 4.0 GPA.

But one experience topped them all: the opportunity to study abroad in Costa Rica through the Honors Program.

"I never thought I would have the option to study abroad," said Dana. "At times, I worked up to three jobs to help pay for school."

Her trip was made possible through the Castle International Studies Scholarship, which provides financial support to students interested in studying abroad who wouldn't otherwise be able to participate.

Dana says it was an experience she will never forget; however, she had one regret.

"I never got to thank my scholarship donors, John and Nancy Castle," said Dana. "And that stuck with me all these years. I hoped one day I could meet them and share my gratitude."

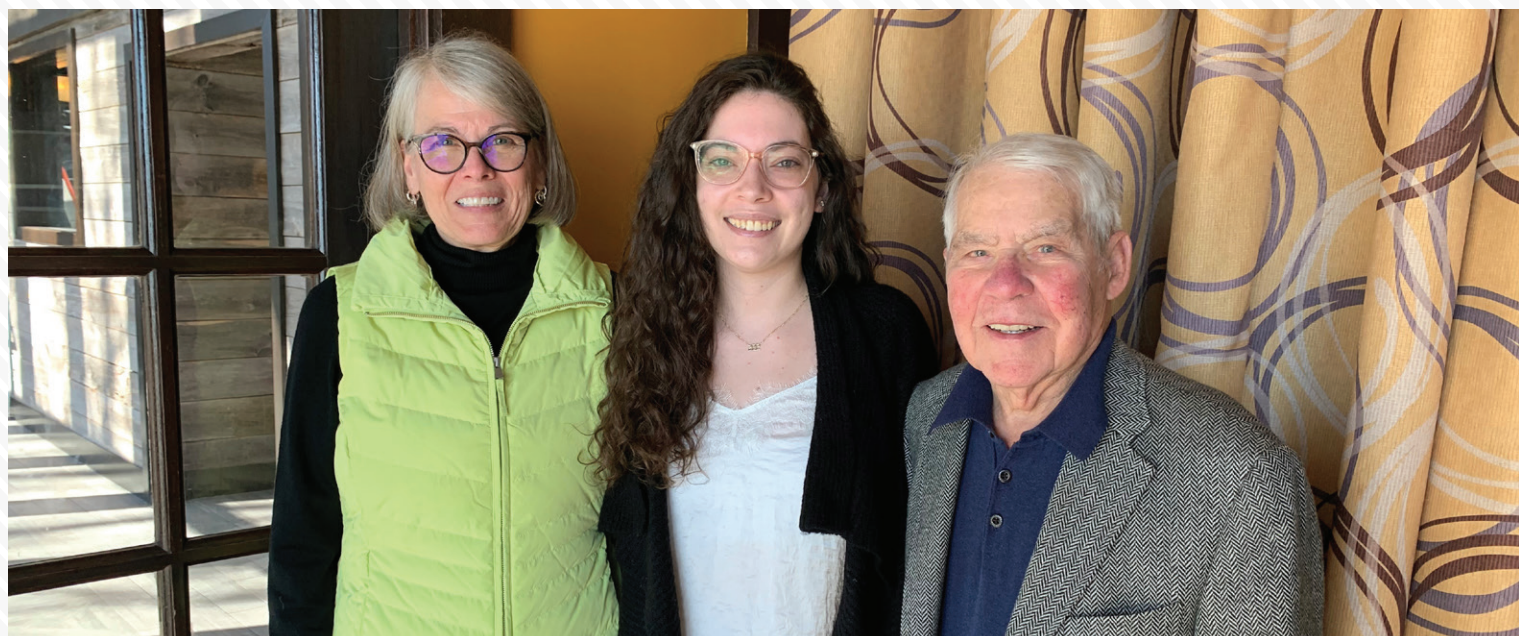
After graduating from Harper in Spring 2019, Dana completed her bachelor's degree in psychology at Northern Illinois University. She is now a first-year graduate student at Marquette University in Milwaukee.

A few months into grad school, she contacted the Harper Educational Foundation to see if she could meet the Castles. On a sunny February day, they were able to meet, just as she always hoped.

John and Nancy Castle were equally delighted to meet Dana. Nancy is a Harper alumna and retired Northern Illinois University faculty member, while John spent his career in banking. Nancy shared with Dana that she didn't travel outside of the U.S. until she was in her forties, but when she finally did, she found it eye-opening. Because of that, she and John were determined to help broaden Harper students' horizons through financial support for an international travel opportunity that Nancy didn't have as a student.

Dana cherishes her study abroad experience and the Castle's willingness to give that opportunity to students.

"I am so grateful I got to meet them and share the importance that the experience had for me," said Dana. "It was nice to learn about them and why they do what they do."



Alumni gather for Speech and Debate Team reunion

Student clubs and organizations can become like extended family and create lifelong friendships for many students. The Harper College Speech and Debate Team is no exception. On February 17, alumni representing several decades of Harper's speech and debate teams gathered for a Speech and Debate Alumni Reunion. Alumni reconnected with each other, current and former faculty and met current speech and debate team students.



Mary Jo Willis Theatre Scholarship Endowment recipient takes center stage

In the summer of 2021, Sebastian R., a recent high school graduate, and soon-to-be Harper freshman, applied for scholarships through the Harper College Educational Foundation. In his application, he wrote about his academic and career goals:

"Freshman year in high school, I had a study hall teacher who pushed me to join the theater program at the high school. I ended up loving it and knew I had found my muse. It was such a great feeling. I knew I wanted to continue my education. I decided that Harper College would be my best option. Moving onto Harper, I could complete my gen ed classes and continue my training in making myself a stronger and better performer. After taking all the appropriate classes and completing the training at Harper, I would audition and transfer to a four-year college, following my theater education there."

Sebastian received the Mary Jo Willis Theatre Scholarship Endowment during his first year at Harper. The scholarship was created by Professor Emerita Mary Jo Willis in 2004 and supports new and returning students

to Harper College who have demonstrated commitment to the theatre through coursework or production experience.

He credits the scholarship for helping him to take his first Theatre Intro Class with Professor Laura Pulio Colbert, and quit his job, allowing him more time to study, take a fourth class in US History and rehearse.

Professor Colbert, Sebastian's professor and a Harper alumna had Mary Jo Willis as her first acting teacher and shares that Mary Jo was, "the person who sent me on the road to my future."

Now, nearly two years later, Sebastian is ready to embark on the next stage of his educational and career journey. Sebastian auditioned and has received an academic scholarship to attend the university of Wisconsin-Parkside where he will major in Acting with a minor in stage combat. He thanks his professors, Laura Pulio Colbert and Kevin Long, "They helped me broaden my thoughts and perspectives on what I can do."

New partnership allows donors to use their IRA required minimum distribution to support Harper students

Did you know? You can use and possibly deduct your current IRA or qualified plan Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and support a Harper College student's future at the same time?*

This is called a Qualified Charitable Deduction or QCD, and the Harper College Educational Foundation is now accepting these donations through a new partnership with the Illinois Community College System Foundation.

In partnership with the Illinois Community College System Foundation (ICCSF), the Harper College Educational Foundation can now accept Qualified Charitable Distributions from IRA accounts. You can choose the scholarship or program fund you want to support. The Illinois Community College System Foundation accepts the QCDs on behalf of the Harper College Educational Foundation, and 100% of your gift supports Harper College students.

You can use these gifts to support an existing scholarship fund, create your own scholarship, or provide general support to college programs and initiatives.

Just like donating via cash or check, giving from your IRA is an immediate and impactful way to support Harper College students and programs. Unlike a cash gift, it helps you save on your taxes in the process.

If interested, call or email Heather Zoldak, CFRE, Associate Executive Director/Major Gifts, at **847.925.6319** or **hzoldak@harpercollege.edu**. She can give you the information needed to connect with the Illinois Community College System Foundation and make your QCD gift today.

**Seek a tax professional*

Additional ways to use your retirement plan to support Harper students

You can also use your IRA to create a meaningful legacy by naming the William Rainey Harper College Educational Foundation as the beneficiary of your retirement plan. As a nonprofit organization, Harper College won't pay income tax on the distribution. And, when you name the William Rainey Harper College Educational Foundation as your retirement plan beneficiary, 100% of the funds will support an area you care about – student scholarships, faculty development, or educational programs to name just a few. It's a smart way to maximize your assets and make a powerful impact.

If you are interested in making the William Rainey Harper College Educational Foundation the beneficiary of your retirement plan, or if you have already done so, please let us know so we can discuss how you would like your gift used. Thank you for wanting to help future generations of Harper students!

CONTACT

Heather Zoldak, CFRE
Associate Executive Director/Major Gifts
847.925.6319
hzoldak@harpercollege.edu



“This was an amazing resource and opportunity for me to learn from very experienced alumni!”

Career Connections Student Participant

Career Connections Program brings together alumni and students

In March, Career Connections with Harper Alumni provided students with opportunities to learn from and connect with Harper College alumni over the course of two days through alumni panel presentations and a professional leadership dinner with alumni professionals. This event was open to all students. Students could sign up to attend one, two or all three panels or apply to attend the dinner.

The three panel sessions featured alumni speaking on their experience transferring to a four-year institution, alumni leaders in human resources sharing best practices for being career-ready, and Distinguished Alumni leaders discussing their perspectives on leadership.

The Professional Leadership Dinner, which took place at Chicago Prime Italian in Schaumburg, an alumni-owned business, invited

alumni to join students for an evening focused on networking, etiquette basics and professionalism. Students attended a pre-event seminar on etiquette, professionalism and leadership to prepare for their dinner with alumni professionals.

Allstate sponsored this event.

Are you a Harper alumni interested in supporting Harper students? Join Harper Connect, an online alumni community, including an alumni directory, job board, networking and mentoring support, and more at alumni.harpercollege.edu, or contact Shannon Hynes, Director of Alumni, at shynes@harpercollege.edu.

Thank you to our Business Champions

The Harper College Educational Foundation recognizes the following businesses for their sponsorship support during the 2022-2023 year. To learn more about becoming a Business Champion, email Kristyn Meyer at kmeyer@harpercollege.edu. Sponsors secured as of April 12, 2023.

\$10,000+			\$7,500+	<p>BARRINGTON BANK & TRUST COMPANY, N.A. <small>A WINTRUST COMMUNITY BANK</small></p> <p>FGMAARCHITECTS</p> <p>LEGATARCHITECTS</p> <p> MORTENSON</p> <p> NORTHERN TRUST</p>	
 <p>Robbins Schwartz <small>One Team. Making Your Mission Ours.</small></p>					
\$5,000+	 <p>Ascension Alexian Brothers</p>	 <p>Ascension Saint Alexius</p>	 <p>nch Northwest Community Healthcare <small>Part of NorthShore</small></p>	\$2,500+	 <p>STUDIO GC architecture + interiors</p>
 <p>Pepper Construction <small>Tomorrow Transformed</small></p>		 <p>POWER CONSTRUCTION</p>	 <p>rtm engineering consultants</p>	 <p>witA</p>	
\$1,000+	<p>American Commercial Bank & Trust</p> <p>AMS Industries</p> <p>AMSCO Engineering</p> <p>Blinderman Construction</p> <p>Bradford Systems</p> <p>Combined Roofing Services LLC</p>	<p>Cornerstone National Bank & Trust Company</p> <p>Financial Elements, Inc</p> <p>Follett Higher Education Group</p> <p>Grumman/Butkus</p> <p>Heartland Bank and Trust</p>	<p>Holabird & Root</p> <p>IMEG</p> <p>Leopardo Companies</p> <p>RESTORE</p>		

Donor Listing Update

When we published the donor listing in last fall's Catalyst, we omitted the following donors or listed their names incorrectly. We are grateful for their generosity and support of Harper students and apologize for the oversight. Thank you.

\$2,500+

Brad and Judy Stetson

\$1,000+

Rafael and Betsy Malpica

\$500+

Don Houchins

\$250+

Steve and Nicole Jackson

LAURA LEBER



KIM MAGUIRE



New Educational Foundation Board Members

The Foundation welcomes two new members to the Harper College Educational Foundation Board of Directors.

Laura Leber

Laura Leber is the Director of Design Phase Management for Mortenson. She provides design phase oversight to local projects and leads the Chicago office design phase team. She has worked on many notable projects over her 20+ year career.

Laura has been involved with Feed My Starving Children, New Moms/Bright Horizons, Professional Women in Construction, Black Contractors and Habitat for Humanity. Laura graduated from Boston College with a B.S. in Mathematics and earned a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Wayne State University in Detroit.

Kim Maguire

Kim Maguire, RN, BSN, MBA/HCM, CENP, CHSP is the Chief Nursing Officer/EVP for Northwest Community Hospital/Northshore University Health System. She has an over 30-year career in the healthcare field and is a Robert Wood Johnson Nursing Executive Fellow.

Kim recently moved to the Chicagoland area from Muskegon where she was involved in many nonprofit organizations including Big Brothers/Big Sisters, United Way of West MI, and Muskegon Youth Hockey, and was a Michigan State University Preceptor. Most recently, Kim volunteered as a mentor with the Harper Foundation's corporate mentoring program.

Save the Date

Please plan to join us on

Monday, June 12, 2023

as we celebrate our

34th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

We look forward to sharing a fun-filled day of golf, giving, fellowship and food at **INVERNESS GOLF CLUB**

Event proceeds support student scholarships and emerging educational initiatives at Harper College.

For questions and reservations

please contact Kristyn Meyer at

847.925.6468 or kmeyer@harpercollege.edu

Sponsorship opportunities available.

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Harper College Educational
Foundation

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INSPIRE

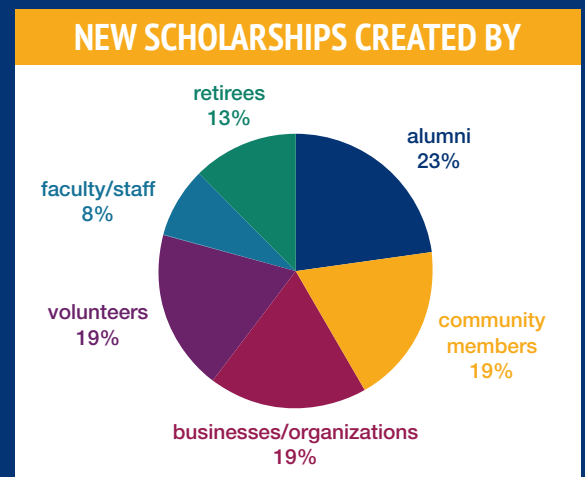
Build A Better Tomorrow

Scholarships change lives. The Harper College Educational Foundation has supported Harper College students in achieving their educational goals for 50 years. The Inspire Scholarship Campaign broadens financial support by creating new opportunities and expanding existing scholarships to assist current and future students' lives.

Since the fall of 2020, the foundation has been working with generous alumni, faculty and staff, retirees, community leaders and volunteers who understand how scholarship support gives Harper students opportunities to make discoveries, receive quality training and support their families through education.

To date, 45 new scholarships have been created. Five donors have increased their giving to change their annual scholarship to an endowed scholarship or to expand the scope of their scholarship to help students while both at Harper College and at a transfer school.

We believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to achieve their educational dreams. Thank you for investing in Harper students and inspiring them to make their dreams a reality.



INSPIRE BY THE NUMBERS

Campaign Fundraising Goal:
\$30,000,000

\$29,551,760 total raised	99% percent to goal	45 total new scholarships created
5 existing Scholarships that expanded scope or changed from annual to endowed		