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## STARS OF THE PAST...STARS OF THE FUTURE The President's Ball 2012



Winning a scholarship helped Harper College student Elisa Galvan pay for her classes.

It also, she says, empowered her to study education, which revealed her full potential.

Galvan shared her story at the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary President's Ball on Saturday, September 22, urging the 300 supporters in attendance to fund scholarships and, in turn, more success stories.



*President's Ball co-chairs and Foundation Board Members, Lane Moyer and Derrick Hamilton; Dr. Mary Knight, Chief Advancement Officer and Executive Director, Educational Foundation and Dr. Ken Ender, President, Harper College*

"If someone is able to provide a scholarship, you can be sure that student is going to impact the lives of many people," said Galvan, a recipient of the Motorola Solutions Foundation Award for Excellence and a member of the Harper College Speech Team. "It's partially a building of a community: understanding that your involvement touches someone else, and that they will touch others."

By the night's end, the dinner-and-dancing gala had raised nearly \$300,000 for scholarships and programs—a total that included sponsorships and donations, ticket sales, silent auction proceeds and income from a live appeal for scholarship funding, which saw guests enthusiastically support awards to cover everything from a single credit hour to a year of part-time or full-time tuition.

*continued on page 10*

# Celebrating Success: 100 INFLUENTIAL WOMEN BREAKFAST



Catherine Clarke, Women's Program Graduate

Catherine Clarke had no firm plan when she walked in the door of the Rita and John Canning Women's Program at Harper College. She just knew something had to change.

In the end, the program "completely changed the trajectory of my life," said Clarke, a mother of four who transferred to Elmhurst College—



Ann Pramaggiore, President and CEO, ComEd

where she carries a perfect 4.0 GPA—after completing her Harper education. She came to campus as a divorced former homemaker who'd left her marriage because of domestic violence. She left with a goal of a master's in counseling.

Her journey took center stage at the 100 Influential Women Breakfast, a fundraiser for the Women's Program held in the Wojcik Conference Center on Friday, September 7.

"My circumstances do not define me, nor do they confine me," she told attendees during her comments. "I've learned I can do more, and I can be more than I ever thought possible."

Clarke's speech preceded a keynote from Anne Pramaggiore, ComEd's first female CEO.

Pramaggiore, a former film major who took an untraditional route to her current job, knows well the power of determination, and the role that personal advocates can play in

achieving success. In her speech, she urged women to color outside the lines and, more broadly, forget what they learned in kindergarten: big girls do cry, and sometimes you have to interrupt to be heard. She also applauded the Women's Program, and urged attendees to answer the call to empower others.

The breakfast, sponsored by Rita Canning and Linda Lang, raised nearly \$46,000 for the Women's Program, the only remaining program of its kind in the state. The program provides educational support and resources and the opportunity for a fresh start to hundreds of single parents, former homemakers and others—more than half of whom are domestic violence victims—every year. Enrollment climbed amid the recession.

*My circumstances  
do not define me, nor do  
they confine me.*

"Our participants see us as the hope and the help that they need to get through whatever they're going through. In many cases, they depend on us to take their lives in a new direction," Women's Program Director Kathleen Canfield said. "We need to continue to be there for them. Individual contributions make a real difference as we seek to continue our program's support."

A state grant that helped fund the program was eliminated in 2008, and the 100 Influential Women initiative was launched a year later, with an initial goal of raising \$100,000 through the contributions of at least 100 donors.

"I can't think of a better way to support the community," said Rita Canning, a donor and the program's namesake who also sits on Harper's Board of Trustees and helped plan the event. ■



Harper College Board of Trustees, Diane Hill, Chair; Rita Canning, Vice-Chair and Laurie Stone join Ann after the breakfast.



Retired Harper College administrator, Bonnie Henry shares a laugh during the event.



# Scholar Spotlights: Scholarships and Awards

The Harper College Educational Foundation is pleased to announce this year's recipients of the Motorola Solutions Foundation Award for Excellence and the Amersham Endowed Scholarship—Harper College's two premier scholarship awards. The highest award a Harper student may earn, the Motorola Solutions Foundation Award for Excellence emphasizes academic standing, community service and leadership. The Amersham Endowed Scholarship recognizes outstanding academic achievement.

*Congratulations to this year's recipients.*

## Motorola Solutions Foundation Award for Excellence

### ELISA GALVAN AND KELLI HALFMAN

**Elisa Galvan** is an outstanding student leader. She has a 4.0 GPA and was recently chosen as captain of the Harper College Speech and Debate Team. Her goal is to graduate from Harper with an associate in arts degree and eventually earn a master's degree in rhetoric and become an English professor. She will be the first member of her immediate family to attend and graduate from college. In addition to excelling in her classes, Elisa volunteers her time with children whose parents are taking English as a Second Language classes. She also speaks annually at her former high school about the importance of following your dreams.

**Kelli Halfman** is a hardworking student who is passionate about education. After Harper, she plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in social science and eventually teach at the high school level. She hopes to influence her future students both inside and outside of the classroom. Kelli is very involved with the National Education Association and the Illinois Education Association. She attends state conferences, events and programs and is planning to help create a National Education Association chapter at Harper College.



*Marianne Stanke, Motorola Solutions; Elisa Galvan; Kelli Halfman; Tom Wischhusen, President, Foundation Board; Haley Berlett and Dr. Mary Knight, Chief Advancement Officer and Executive Director, Educational Foundation*

She also serves as the Future Educators Club's public relations representative. In addition to her activities on campus, Kelli has volunteered at the Harper College Northeast Center in Prospect Heights and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

## Amersham Endowed Scholarship

### HALEY BERLETT

**Haley Berlett** is a very focused student who hopes to become a speech pathologist. She has a 3.88 GPA and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Haley loves children and helping people. She is a gymnastics instructor and volunteers as a summer camp counselor for children with special needs. In addition to attending classes, Haley works several jobs, participates in extracurricular activities and makes time for community service activities. Haley received the President's Volunteer Service Award for her passion for volunteering and helping others.



*Dr. Mary Knight, Chief Advancement Officer and Executive Director, Educational Foundation; Tom Wischhusen, President, Foundation Board; Kelsey McHugh and Diane Hill, Chair, Harper College Board of Trustees*

The Harper College Educational Foundation congratulates this year's David K. Hill Memorial Scholarship recipient, Kelsey McHugh. This scholarship was created in memory of David K. Hill by his family and friends. David was a member of the Harper College Board of Trustees, a community leader, a prominent national businessman and philanthropist. The scholarship is open to students in science programs who exhibit exemplary achievement in the areas of academics and community service.

## David K. Hill Memorial Scholarship

### KELSEY MCHUGH

**Kelsey McHugh** is a student who is passionate about health science. She has always been fascinated with the medical field. Her decision to pursue a career in health science started from her drive to help others and be a positive influence on those around her. Kelsey has a 4.0 GPA and balances a part-time job in addition to her school work. She is currently completing prerequisites for the EMT Program and plans to apply to enter the program in spring 2013. Upon finishing the program she hopes to find a job as an EMT while waiting to be accepted into the Paramedic Program. ■

# Welcome Dr. Mary Knight

As the Chief Development Officer for the Mayo Clinic Health System in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, Dr. Mary Knight oversaw a \$12.5 million campaign for a hospital expansion, an \$8 million campaign to build a new emergency department and a \$2 million campaign to build a corporate child development center.

She's now bringing her talents—and her ability to drive change—to Harper College.

Dr. Knight was appointed in August by the Harper College Board of Trustees to serve as the new chief advancement officer and the executive director of the Harper College Educational Foundation.

“Given state and federal cuts in financial aid programs, the Foundation is playing a critical role in ensuring finances are not a barrier to student success at Harper,” said Harper College President Dr. Ken Ender.

“Dr. Knight not only has a strong record of successful fundraising, but she has a passion for higher education and its role of transforming lives and building community partnerships.”

In her role, she will oversee all aspects of Harper's public—and private—sector fundraising and alumni programs.

“I'm incredibly excited and honored to be taking on a role like this at a college of this caliber,” Dr. Knight said. “In the short time that I've been here, I've already been impressed by the generosity and the hard work of our donors, board members and College faculty and staff. Their tireless advocacy for Harper and their enthusiastic determination to support our students speaks volumes about this institution and, more importantly, our capacity to empower change by working collectively to help students succeed.”

She holds a bachelor's degree in music from Central Methodist University in Fayette, Missouri; a master's degree in music theory from Colorado State



*“I'm incredibly excited and honored to be taking on a role like this at a college of this caliber...”*

University in Fort Collins, Colorado; and a Ph.D. in music theory from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Prior to her career in philanthropy,

Dr. Knight was an assistant professor of music at Lewis University in Romeoville and served as a department chair.

She and her husband, Bob, have raised four boys.

“Dr. Knight comes to us with a wealth of experience working with nonprofits and directing activities for significant organizations, which will serve her well at Harper,” said Tom Wischhusen, President of the Harper College Educational Foundation Board. “Our Foundation already is highly regarded, but she will bring a new set of eyes, allowing us to take a fresh look at our mission, our goals and the ways in which we can serve students with scholarships and new programs.” ■



## IS HARPER COLLEGE IN YOUR WILL?

For more information, contact the Harper College Educational Foundation at 847.925.6490 or [foundation@harpercollege.edu](mailto:foundation@harpercollege.edu).



# 24th Annual Harper Educational Foundation Golf Open 2012



*Thank you to our golfers who helped make this year's event a success.*

Nearly 100 golfers teed off in the name of student success at the Harper College Educational Foundation's annual Golf Open, held on Monday, June 11, at the Inverness Golf Club.

The event netted nearly \$57,000 for the Foundation's Resource for Excellence Fund, drawing on robust corporate sponsorships, golfer registrations and proceeds from a raffle and silent auction to fuel funding for student scholarships and programming across the campus.

The Open featured 18 holes of golf as well as a brunch, cocktail reception and awards dinner. Harper alumnus Jim Tufts, now a chemistry student at the Illinois Institute of Technology, served as the guest speaker, telling attendees how Harper's unique undergraduate chemistry research program—which has received Resource for Excellence funding—changed his life.

Tufts, who spent two years working on graduate-level research involving hydrogen storage and polymers, said the work gave him purpose and instilled confidence he wouldn't otherwise have.

In addition to the chemistry research program, proceeds from Educational Foundation golf outings have launched or supported programs for the unemployed, computer courses for participants of the Rita and John Canning Women's Program at Harper College and bridge programs that ease the high school-to-college transition and boost students' chances of success on campus.

The 2012 planning committee was co-chaired by Educational Foundation Board Member Mark Cleary of Northrop Grumman and former Board Member George Powers of Schneider Electric.

Next year's Open is set for Monday, June 10, at Inverness Golf Club. ■

## **Thank you to our generous sponsors who helped make this event possible:**

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# QA with the new Foundation Board President: **THOMAS G. WISCHHUSEN**



## **WHERE DID YOU GROW UP AND GO TO COLLEGE?**

I grew up in Ridgewood, New Jersey, a suburb of New York City, but moved to Palatine in 1974 when I was 16 years old. I attended and graduated from Palatine High School. Given that I have lived in the Midwest since 1974 and graduated from both high school (1976) and college (University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign-1980), I consider myself a “Midwesterner.”

## **HOW DID YOUR CHILDHOOD INFLUENCE YOUR DESIRE TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE?**

I come from a family of caring professionals with my mother, sisters and aunts all being either teachers or nurses. Although my father was an industrial engineer, he served in many volunteer organizations, as well as the leader of our local Lutheran church which also contributed to the family culture of serving the community. This was nurtured within me as a youngster by my participation in Boy Scouts as well as a number of volunteer opportunities including spending every Saturday morning in the ER of the local hospital for a couple of years.

## **WHAT DREW YOU TO THE HARPER COLLEGE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION?**

My employer, Northern Trust, has contributed to the Foundation, as well as having someone serve on the Board, for many years. Given this, over the years I have had the opportunity to learn more about the Foundation and the people who were involved, so when there was an opening on the board four years ago, I was excited to have been invited to join. In addition, as a Palatine resident for 38 years, I have had numerous opportunities to become familiar with the College and all it provides. My first exposure to Harper was when I attended two summer school classes during my college studies. After college, I attended numerous continuing education classes and, finally, I try to attend as many cultural events as possible, with my favorite being the theater and music performances.

## **OVER YOUR YEARS ON THE BOARD, WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE STUDENT SCHOLAR STORIES THAT YOU HAVE ENCOUNTERED?**

I would say that Elisa Galvan's, the winner of the 2012 Motorola Solutions Foundation Award for Excellence, comments at this year's President's Ball was particularly inspiring. She articulated how scholarships can make such a profound impact on the recipient and positively change lives forever. I also have enjoyed hearing the stories of our Distinguished Alumni and how Harper has made such an impact on their lives.

## **IN YOUR NEW ROLE, WHAT ARE YOUR MAJOR GOALS?**

Although I have numerous goals, the three I consider most important are: 1) Increase the amount of contributions to the Foundation to allow us to award additional scholarships and fund programs at the College. This would come about by: 2) Raising the awareness of Harper in general, and the Foundation in particular, and finally this would be accomplished by, 3) broadening the number of donors we are blessed to have.

## **HOW HAS YOUR CAREER AT NORTHERN TRUST PREPARED YOU TO LEAD THE BOARD?**

Northern Trust has always been characterized by the highest level of honesty and character which is what I will bring to the Foundation. For a Foundation to grow and thrive, these attributes are absolutely critical for all of our board members and staff to possess if we expect people who have worked hard for their money to donate it to us for safekeeping and proper stewardship for the enrichment of our students. In addition to this, I believe the skills I have honed over my 27 years at Northern Trust in regards to leading successfully growing business units while doing so in a conservative fashion, will serve the Foundation well.

## **WILL THERE BE ANY BOARD OPENINGS FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN IMPROVING THE LIVES OF HARPER STUDENTS?**

Yes, through natural attrition, I expect there to be openings on the Foundation Board. We will be looking for people with the ability to help us grow and share the message of Harper with the community. In addition to the Board, we regularly have openings on our various committees which is an ideal way for new people to get to know us and determine how their skills can best be used. ■



## From the President: Welcome Mary...



*Dr. Mary Knight, Chief Advancement Officer and Executive Director, Educational Foundation and Dr. Ken Ender, President, Harper College*

I am pleased to welcome Dr. Mary Knight as Harper's new Chief Advancement Officer and Executive Director of the Harper College Educational Foundation. You can find out more about her background and experience on page 4. But what you won't see on Mary's bio is that she is the mother of four children including twin boys! As a twin, I admire parents (especially mothers) of twins as their confidence and good nature equip them to handle anything that comes their way. Mary's experience as a seasoned fundraiser, and mother of twins, makes her a perfect fit for her new role at Harper.

Mary comes to us at an extraordinary time not only for Harper, but for all community colleges. We are being challenged like never before to train workers for 21st century jobs, improve completion and success rates and, most importantly, provide affordable and accessible higher education to all who seek it despite cuts in federal, state and local funding. Through scholarships and program support, the Harper College Educational Foundation is playing a critical role in helping Harper transform lives and build community partnerships despite this challenging economic environment.

As you might suspect, Mary has a large to-do list. One of the items is to begin planning for the College's 50th anniversary. Harper's district was established by a referendum approved by area voters on March 27, 1965.

*We look forward to your leadership and passion on behalf of our students.*

Harper's 50th anniversary in 2015 presents a rare and precious opportunity to reach out to the community to not only let them know where we've been, but to tell them where we are going and how they can engage more fully with the College. With Mary's leadership and the support of the Foundation Board, I have no doubt our 50th anniversary and other outreach events will bring Harper greater visibility, increase our support and ensure that our programs are properly aligned with the changing educational needs of our district's residents and employers.

Welcome Mary. We look forward to your leadership and passion on behalf of our students.

# Distinguished Alumni Class of 2012

On October 29, six stand-out alumni were inducted into the Harper College Distinguished Alumni Class of 2012. The awards ceremony and reception, attended by 125 guests, collectively saluted the achievements of the six award-winning alumni. The special evening event followed an action-packed day as the honorees visited and took tours of Harper campus and celebrated their success at a special honoree luncheon with President Ender. The Distinguished Alumni Awards were started in 2008 as part of the College's 40th Anniversary. Since then, 28 alumni have been formally recognized for their outstanding professional accomplishments and service to the community. The 2012 Distinguished Alumni Reception was sponsored by Larry and Carolyn Moats (Silver Sponsor) and Atomic Mechanical Services (Bronze Sponsor).

## 2012 Distinguished Alumni Honorees



John Blim



Charles Cann



Jim Inman



Tom Kehoe



Angela LeMay



Don Plass

### JOHN BLIM

Vice President and Marketing Director  
WHAS Crusade for Children  
Louisville, KY

John Blim's 30-year television career got its start in 1977, when he arrived at Harper College at the advice of his father, a college counselor at John Hersey High School. After earning his associate degree from Harper, Blim earned a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University.

Blim's esteemed career has netted him numerous awards and accomplishments including collaborating to accrue 10 Emmys, developing the first television station website and partnering with Armed Forces Network to broadcast Thunder Over Louisville, the United States' largest fireworks display, to servicemen and servicewomen in 170 countries.

Currently he serves as Vice President and Marketing Director of WHAS Crusade for Children, a foundation that raises more

than \$5 million annually for special needs children in Kentucky and Southern Indiana.

### CHARLES CANN

Writer, Producer, and Director, Cacann  
New York, NY

Charles Cann is a writer, producer and director with more than eight years experience working on commercials, broadcast news, documentaries, radio shows and more. His specialty as a sound engineer has led to TV, commercial and film project work for ABC, Fox, NBC and VH1.

Cann gives back to the community as founder, creative director and chef of Tropical Ghana, an organization offering assistance and encouragement to keep the

young children of Ghana in school. He is the author and publisher of the cookbook, *Tropical Ghana Delights*.

After graduating from Harper College, Cann continued his education as a scholarship recipient at Northwestern University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in communications in 2005. Four years later, he earned an MBA in media management from Metropolitan College of New York.

### JIM INMAN

Owner, Elite Athletic Development, Inc.  
Arlington Heights, IL

Jim Inman's enrollment at Harper College in 1997 kick-started his journey to complete the college degree he had started 20 years prior.



During his time on campus, Inman wrote a business plan for a marketing course he later parlayed into his own business.

Since 2006, Inman has been the owner of Elite Athletic Development, an Arlington Heights athletic training facility designed to offer “everyday athletes” the same strength and conditioning used by top-caliber collegiate and professional athletes. During an economic downturn, Elite Athletic Development has expanded to a second location, increased sales and defied industry standards with a retention rate of 90 percent.

Inman received a bachelor’s degree in marketing and management and a certificate of entrepreneurship from the University of Illinois—Chicago.

### **TOM KEHOE**

**Owner and President, Kehoe Designs Chicago, IL**

Tom Kehoe, one of the most highly regarded event specialists in the U.S., got his start in the design business at 16 years old, working summers and weekends at a florist.

After graduating from Harper in 1987 and receiving his bachelor’s in business and hospitality management from Florida International University in 1989, he bought the florist company that had employed him.

As the current President and CEO of Kehoe Designs, Kehoe has earned recognition from the National Association of Catering Executives, the International Special Events Society, Chicago Social and Crain’s Chicago Business. His high-profile events have included the White House Halloween party, the 10th Anniversary Celebration for Chicago’s Peninsula Hotel and multiple UNICEF galas.

### **ANGELA LEMAY**

**Chief Financial Officer, Refurbished Office Environments Barrington Hills, Illinois**

Angela LeMay was 16 years old when she arrived at Harper College in 1987, an early graduate from Rolling Meadows High School

unsure of her career goals. After attending Harper, Angela went on to achieve her undergraduate degree with summa cum laude distinction in Business Administration and her MBA from North Park University.

Today, LeMay boasts an accomplished career in the financial field, serving as Chief Financial Officer for Refurbished Office Environments a company focused on sustainable alternatives to the manufacturing of office furniture netting nearly \$50 million in sales a year.

In the community, LeMay volunteers on the Board of Directors for The Buddy Foundation and sits on the Advisory Board for the Barrington Youth Dance Ensemble.

### **DON PLASS**

**Director of Code Enforcement, Village of Hoffman Estates Sleepy Hollow, IL**

Since earning his Building Code and Enforcement certificate from Harper College in 1996, Don Plass has become a well-known and respected code professional, amassing certifications in 32 different specializations.

For more than a decade, Plass has served as Director of Code Enforcement at the Village of Hoffman Estates, where he oversees code enforcement activities, including plan review, building inspections, property maintenance, health inspections and annual commercial fire inspections. He actively represents code officials in Illinois and testifies in the Illinois legislature on behalf of related bills.

Plass has been recognized for his community service by the International Code Council, been named an Honorary Member of the International Code Council and was a recipient of the prestigious Master Code Professional certification. ■

## **HARPER COLLEGE ALUMNI**

# **LET’S TALK!**

If you attended Harper College, we would love to reconnect with you.

Join our database of Harper College alumni by signing up today at [harpercollege.edu/alumni](http://harpercollege.edu/alumni)

With a brand new alumni program underway, we are continually looking for ways to engage, educate and reconnect alumni to Harper College, and we look forward to your input, ideas and involvement. As part of the alumni program, we are creating:

- Increased opportunities for alumni to network with one another
- Special events and programs that are of interest to alumni
- Volunteer opportunities for alumni to get involved with the College and support current students
- New communication vehicles to keep alumni updated on College developments and activities

## **START CONNECTING TODAY**

## The President's Ball *continued*

"The support we received through this event was incredibly inspiring and proves to me that our Harper faculty, staff, friends and advocates realize the powerful role that scholarship support can play in a student's life," Chief Advancement Officer Dr. Mary Knight said. "While state funding for community colleges has decreased, the need for student support and innovative programming remains strong. Events like this one provide an opportunity for us to build new relationships as we champion student success."

The Ball, held at the Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel and Convention Center, drew faculty and staff members, administrators, members of the Harper College Board of Trustees and the Educational Foundation Board of Directors, local business owners and community members.

The evening carried a "Stars of the Past, Stars of the Future" theme, with Harper theatre students acting the parts of 1930s and '40s socialites and paparazzi and a video montage showcasing current and future students whose academic careers and future successes have been impacted by donors.

Professor Jeff Przybylo, who coaches Harper's award-winning Speech and Debate Team, emceed.

The planning committee was co-chaired by Lane Moyer, immediate past president of the Foundation's Board of Directors and Board Member Derrick Hamilton.

The Foundation last year awarded about \$300,000 in scholarships to Harper students and provided about \$135,000 in grants toward a variety of programs. ■

### PRESIDENT'S BALL SPONSORS

Thank you to our generous sponsors for helping make the 2012 President's Ball possible.

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Gregory Dowell, Harper College Board of Trustee, pledges his support during the live appeal at The President's Ball.



Harper drama students added to the evening's fun by transforming themselves into Hollywood glam from the past.



Newly elected Foundation President, Tom Wischhusen and his wife Karen.



## WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER COLLEGE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION 2012–2013 MEMBERS

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**Dr. Mary Knight, (Ex-Officio)**

Executive Director, Educational Foundation  
Harper College

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# Harper College

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# FINISH

## HARPER COLLEGE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION: HELPING TO FULFILL THE PROMISE OF EDUCATION

Everyone connected to the Educational Foundation has one goal – to help students achieve their dream and **finish their education**. And thanks to your support and commitment to Harper College students, you are helping us achieve this goal. Your contributions have helped to make significant changes in the lives of students within our community.

This past year, the Harper College Educational Foundation awarded almost \$300,000 to Harper College students in need of financial assistance. In addition, the Foundation's Resource for Excellence grant provided more than \$135,000 to College programs last year. This funding helps ensure that scholarships

and emerging programs are available for students to pursue and fulfill their educational goals at Harper College.

Your year-end contribution will help a student attend college; an adult develop new skills to obtain a job; a single parent build a future; a family achieve their dreams and a community have a lifetime of educational opportunities.

For more information on how to make a year-end contribution, please contact the Educational Foundation at [foundation@harpercollege.edu](mailto:foundation@harpercollege.edu) or 847.925.6490. Contributions may be sent directly to the Foundation using the enclosed donation envelope.

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**THANK YOU FOR HELPING  
TO MAKE EDUCATION A PRIORITY**