

President's Report

May 2014

Snow on the day before our commencement ceremony! On May 16! I must say, Mother Nature continued to challenge us this year. Luckily, it is behind us and we look forward to better weather this summer!

Despite the unusual weather on the day before commencement, the graduation ceremony was superb. Many faculty, staff, and administrators worked diligently to make the day special for over 500 students who attended. We had 180 faculty colleagues in attendance, making the day even more memorable for their students. Secretary Penny Pritzker's remarks were concise and memorable. We truly appreciated her acknowledging the College's role in modeling the *21st Century Community College*.

We have a few more "graduations" to attend. On May 19, we celebrate the accomplishments of our students in the Career Skills Institute; on June 20, the GED graduation; and finally, on July 9, it's our Fast Track graduation. Each of these occasions celebrates success, hard work, and determination. It is an honor to participate in these occasions.

As we say good-bye to many, we welcome yet another group who will begin immediately. We begin summer classes on May 19 with the summer session concluding on August 15. We are running behind in our enrollment numbers this summer, as compared to this time last year. As of this writing, I do not have the precise market segment data, but it is most likely in the "Young Adults" segment. Interestingly, when we look at the data longitudinally, focusing on FY 2008 to FY 2014, we are significantly up (1,386) in the "first time in college" (FTIC) segment, below in Young Adults (554), and considerably below in Adults (1,181). However, this latter group is taking more credits than those in FY 2008, represented by an increase in 121 FTE enrollments. This enrollment picture is very puzzling. We shall be working hard over the coming month to tease out cause and effect.

As this academic year comes to an end we note the following other success stories of our students, faculty and staff:

Student Success

- This year nearly 100 students were honored at the 2014 Honors Convocation. Awardees included recipients of The James Brown Scholarship, Motorola Solutions Foundation Award for Excellence, Kappa Beta Delta Awards, Honors Program Graduates, Phi Theta Kappa Graduates, Engineering Pathways students, and Excellence in the Discipline. Ten students were awarded medallions as 4.0 Graduates. Professor Andrew Wilson received the Motorola Solutions Foundation Endowed Award for Teaching Excellence and Instructor Nellie Khalil received The

Professor Powell and Larry Moats Extra Five Minutes Faculty Award. The recipient of the James J. McGrath Award was Mary Jo Willis, a current board member of the Harper College Educational Foundation.

- The first cohort of Engineering Pathways students are leaving Harper and enrolling as juniors in UIUC's College of Engineering. This very successful program accepts a cohort of students who are required to earn 60 credit hours at Harper with a 3.3 GPA and are then guaranteed acceptance into the highly selective College of Engineering at UIUC. Harper is currently accepting the third cohort of approximately 50 students into this program.
- Leslye Hess, Coordinator and Associate Professor for the Radiologic Technology Program, and Mary Hood, Associate Professor for the Radiologic Technology Program, co-chaired the annual Illinois State Society of Radiologic Technologists Meeting in Peoria, Illinois April 23 through 25. Ten 2nd year students in Radiologic Technology also attended the conference. This conference gives the students an opportunity to review for the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists examination which each student takes upon graduation from the Radiologic Technology Program. Attending various seminars, review sessions, and taking on-line mock registries is part of the preparation for this exam. During the Conference, four 2nd year students, Andrey Bohonok, Kathleen Ksiazek, Nileshwari Shah, and Daniel Solley, competed in the annual Student Scholar Bowl Tournament. The students came in second during the first round of competition, and fourth overall in the second round of competition.
- Joseph Scrima, Testing Serving Manager, was recently appointed to serve on the Technology Services Committee for the National College Testing Association (NCTA). NCTA, a non-profit organization with members in the United States and Canada, "is dedicated to the promotion of professionalism and quality in the administration of testing services and programs."
- 2014 Harper College Speech & Debate Team finished fifth among 59 community colleges that competed at this year's nationals. The Harper squad won Gold Medals in 2 of the 13 speaking events: Jacqueline Van Lysebettens from Hoffman Estates in the Speech to Entertain event and Margo Vida from Streamwood in the Impromptu Speaking event. In addition, there were six Harper bronze medal winners.
- Five Harper students, Ricky Georgen, Patrick Wallenberg, Shannelle Whitaker, Jalen Little, and Michael Lee, were awarded Outstanding Recognition at Elmhurst College's renowned Jazz Festival, which included participants from many other 2- and 4-year institutions.
- Campus-wide elections for a new Student Trustee and new executive officers for the Student Government Association (SGA) were held on April 8 and 9. Approximately 530 votes were cast and recorded online via the Student Portal. Newly elected student leaders are:
 - Student Trustee: Colin Weber
 - SGA President: Joe Haynes
 - SGA Executive Vice President: Jackie Schmidt
 - SGA Speaker of the General Assembly: Esteban Ringol
- An Etiquette Dinner Workshop (co-sponsored with Sodexo) was held on April 16, and hosted 16 student participants.
- The Office of Student Involvement (OSI) coordinated a community-service opportunity to Feed My Starving Children in Schaumburg in recognition of Global Youth Service Day on Friday, April 11; 35 students participated and packed 120 resource boxes that will make 25,926 meals to feed 71 children in El Salvador for an entire year.

- Harper men's basketball player Kevin Walsh (St. Viator), a First Team All-Conference and All-Region selection, was named an All-American Honorable Mention.
- The Pre-Med Club sponsored CPR training this semester. \$5 from each participant was donated to the American Heart Association. They also help raise funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and volunteer regularly at Feed My Starving Children.

Facilities Management

- East Campus Construction - is moving rapidly on all three major projects in the area. Exterior work is nearing completion on both Buildings D and H, and interior finishes are underway. The East Campus Parking Structure, Parking Lot 6, and modifications to Kris Howard Drive are also progressing very well. All of the aforementioned projects remain on schedule and within budget.
- The Design Development Phase for the Canning Center is underway with an expected completion date of July 1. Interior spaces are starting to take shape and exterior elevation studies are evolving nicely. Cannon Design recently implemented two project leadership changes to ensure the project's original scope, budget and schedule remain intact. Both the Capital Development Board and Harper College agreed that, because of recent circumstances, these changes were necessary.
- East Campus Landscape Project - budgets for Buildings D, H, and the East Campus Parking Structure were consolidated into one project to ensure aesthetic consistency and other economies of scale. Design work is nearing completion and implementation will start with the fall 2014 planting season and continue from south (near Lot 6) to north and west until the Phase II portion of Building D work is complete. All landscaping work is being phased so as not to interfere with any other remaining site or building work. Conceptual plans are underway for the proposed amphitheater and pedestrian mall along the entire south edge of the lake.
- The Design Development Phase for the Advanced Manufacturing Lab (AML) is near completion and construction documents are expected to start soon. The intended completion date is targeted so the lab is operational by the start of the fall 2015 semester. In the meantime, the AML will have temporary residence in the Building D Phase I dock area, and be operational by the start of the fall 2014 semester.

Information Technology

- IT partnered with the Student Development team to create the student transfer systems and processes necessary to make Harper College a receiving institution in the Transferology (formerly u. select) system.
- The Servers and Networks team quickly responded to the Heart Bleed vulnerability that was discovered this month; 117 servers were updated to ensure all Harper systems are protected.
- The Servers and Networks team also responded to an internet outage caused by a fiber optic cable cut on the internet service provided by the State of Illinois. This internet service is primarily used by the Harper College campus wireless network. Because Harper has redundant internet service, we were able to switch the wireless network over to our alternate service provider until the fiber optic cable was repaired.

- IT completed the One Stop Analysis project to provide current and future state process mapping of Enrollment Services' key functions. The objective was to identify gaps between the current and future state, and recommend improvements for the One Stop Center.

Human Resources

- On Thursday, May 8, the College celebrated and recognized the efforts of employees as part of its third annual spring recognition event. The food for this year's Spring Fest event, "Backyard Picnic", was provided by our new Food Service provider, Sodexo. For a third year in a row, the weather cooperated with plenty of sunshine.
- On Wednesday, May 7, 2013, Roger Spayer served as a panelist for Recruiting and Developing Underrepresented Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) Faculty and Addressing the Nursing Faculty Shortage. Along with academic representatives from Northwestern University, Purdue University, University of Wisconsin, and Rush University, Spayer highlighted current campus practices and fielded audience questions regarding recruitment of underrepresented members in the STEM fields. The panel was a part of the Greater Chicago Midwest Higher Education Recruitment Consortium's (GCMERC) Spring Conference.

Advancement

- The inaugural Harper College Scholarship Recognition dinner was held in the Building M gymnasium on April 30. Over 300 donors and scholarship recipients attended a reception and dinner in their honor. Donors were able to meet their student scholarship recipients at this event.
- In May, over 200 current students and faculty along with alumni of the Harper College Nursing program attended the annual Nursing Alumni Symposium in the Wojcik Conference Center. An Evening of Jazz reception for Alumni was held before the jazz concert in the performing arts center. There was a call for nominations for distinguished alumni to be celebrated next fall. Finally, the newest Harper College alumni were presented with "Harper College Alumni" license plate frames at the 2014 Commencement.
- The 26th Annual Harper College Golf Open will be held at the Inverness Golf and Country Club on June 9. Proceeds will benefit the Scholarship and Resource for Excellence programs.

Planning and Institutional Effectiveness

- The 2017-2018 HLC Reaccreditation Steering Committee has begun their work. The team comprised of six administrators and six faculty members attended the Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference and Accreditation Workshop in April. Team members learned more about the Open Pathways reaccreditation process and the new criteria for accreditation. These new processes focus institutions of higher education on evidence of improvement and quality. The team is excited to begin this important work and is committed to engaging the campus community in the reaccreditation process.
- The Outcomes Assessment Office has produced its annual Outcomes Assessment Report. This report includes participation rates and activities for course, program/department and general education assessment. Examples of how assessment results are being used to improve student learning and program/department quality are highlighted in this report.

- Kelly Page and Darlene Schlenbecker, co-leaders of the Strategic Planning goal team on Accountability, presented at the Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference. Their presentation, “Engaged Accountability: Achieving Transparency with Technology and Communication,” shared the process to develop dashboards that provide internal and external constituents with clear and meaningful data on strategic plan goals and institutional effectiveness measures.

Workforce and Strategic Alliances

- Thus far, Harper has conducted 91 basic or intermediate motorcycle safety training classes, serving 881 Cook County residents.
- The new Illinois Network for Advanced Manufacturing (INAM) website was successfully launched this past month. Harper is the lead community college in this consortium consisting of 21 community colleges in Illinois; we are also the fiscal agent for the \$13 million Department of Labor grant that was awarded to INAM. The website www.inam.net has been viewed nationwide.
- The College hosted the quarterly meeting of the Northern Illinois Workforce Coalition (NIWC). More than 50 workforce directors and community college leaders attended. Information on upcoming grants was shared, and presentations were given on the ATIM grant award and Skills for Chicagoland’s future.
- Andrew Castro, the student who appeared on the recent WGN news piece about college graduates turning to community colleges for job training after unsuccessful job searches, has landed a full time position as a Quality Inspector. Kudos to Harper’s Job Placement Resource Center.

Diversity and Inclusion

- The Annual Diversity Symposium was held on April 25. The attendance of 200 employees represented the largest number of participants in the ten-year history of the Symposium. The featured speaker, James Wright, led an engaging keynote address focused on unconscious bias and micro-inequities. James described unconscious bias and micro-inequities as “ways in which individuals are singled out, overlooked, ignored or otherwise discounted, based on unchangeable characteristics such as race, gender, or sexual orientation.” Following the keynote address Mr. Wright facilitated an exercise called “Reflections of Your World” which allowed every attendee an opportunity to get a sense of the diversity of the world in which they work and play every day. The employee feedback was very positive and one attendee wrote, “This was great! I am delighted that Harper College is dedicated to making the world a better place.”

Communications and Legislative Relations

- Harper participated in ICCTA’s Lobby Day in Springfield by holding a joint legislative reception with the College of Lake County and visiting with Harper district legislators individually in the Capitol Building. Dr. Ender, Trustee Bill Kelley and CCO Phil Burdick talked with lawmakers about full funding for MAP grants, reserving a portion of MAP grants for community college students who register throughout the year, and passing a budget that has at least level State funding for community colleges for FY 15.

- Dr. Ender, Chair Hill, and Trustee Mundt participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for the Hanover Park Education and Work Center which is a joint partnership between Harper, Elgin Community College, the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership, the Village of Hanover Park and the State of Illinois. About 75 people attended the event including State Representatives Fred Crespo and Michelle Mussman, Hanover Park Mayor Rod Craig, Elgin Community College President David Sam, Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership COO Ray Bentley as well as area community leaders, school district officials and ECC Board members.



- Lawmakers in Illinois House have begun voting on appropriations bills that will make up the State's FY 15 budget. The bills were roughly in line with Governor Quinn's "recommended budget" which calls for increased spending and making permanent higher income tax rates that were put in place in 2011. The higher rate is scheduled to partially expire on January 1. While all the appropriations bills were passed by the Democratic majority in the House, no vote has been scheduled on making the temporary income tax hike permanent.
- News articles about Harper that appeared in local media outlets recently include:
 - Stories in the *Daily Herald*, *WBBM-AM News radio 780*, *Barrington Courier* and *Buffalo Grove Countryside* about Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker's address to Harper graduates.
 - A *Daily Herald* feature article on the groundbreaking ceremony for the Hanover Park Education and Work Center.
 - *Daily Herald* and *Business Ledger* feature articles and video interview with Harper Dean Kenya Ayers on upcoming renovations and new programming at the Learning and Career Center (formerly the Northeast Center) in Prospect Heights.
 - The *Barrington Courier-Review*, *Buffalo Countryside* and *Journal and Topics* ran preview stories about Secretary Penny Pritzker speaking at the commencement ceremony.
 - *Campus Technology* magazine wrote an article about Harper's Project Success initiative to identify and track students at a higher risk of not finishing. Assistant Provost Sheryl Otto guided reporter Leila Meyer through Harper's partnership with Starfish Early Alert and highlighted strides in persistence and course completion rates.
 - The *Daily Herald* covered Harper's Stress-Free Zone for students to relax before finals. It featured massages, stress consultations and a visit from three Comfort Dogs.
 - *Daily Herald* reporter Katlyn Smith previewed Astronomy Day in the weekly Inside Northwest column.

- An article on the inaugural scholarship-donor dinner – along with two nice photos – ran in the *Daily Herald* Neighbor section.
- The *Daily Herald* previewed Harper's "Fearless" fashion show with an article and two photos.
- *Crain's Chicago* ran an article on alum Gina Kimmel (comedian Jimmy Kimmel's ex-wife) launching a new lingerie line. It mentions that she studied fashion design at Harper.
- *Daily Herald* columnist Burt Constable's wrote a feature story on Professor Wayne Johnson's book about mob murders. The article was picked up by newspapers across the country including the *San Francisco Chronicle*.
- The *Daily Herald* sports section ran articles on the Harper track team heading to nationals and the Yfantis brothers leading the Harper baseball team.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the hard work of our Faculty Senate leadership and that of our Executive Council and President's Cabinet who have worked collaboratively in extending the full-time faculty contract. The discussions leading up to the extension were of mutual interest to all parties, served faculty and the institution well, and positioned us for another period of good rapport and excellent working relationships. Join me in thanking the core team of Dr. Tom Dowd, David Richmond, Dr. Judy Marwick, Dr. Ron Ally, and Roger Spayer who worked on our mutual behalf to make this possible.

Just a last note to share that Cathy and I will be in Virginia for the remainder of this week and all of next. We will unwind, do a little thinking about future possibilities, and prepare ourselves for a productive summer when we return.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Ken