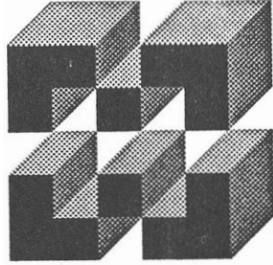


The Harper Insider



Volume 4, Number 11

December - January 1990

Memories of a Holiday Past



Perhaps you have memories of a Christmas that was special or a tradition that your family continues to observe. We asked some faculty and staff members to share their recollections with

MICHAEL NEJMAN- I coordinated the talent for a Christmas party for terminally-ill children. It was a wonderful experience cheering up the kids and making their day.

LAURIE WREN- I remember visiting my grandparents on Christmas Day. There were so many family members that we'd have to eat in shifts. Then 40 first cousins would all have to recite, sing or dance to earn a dollar!

HENRY MEIER- On the first Christmas after the war in Germany (1945), there was no heat and little food. But a friend of mine and I were going to find a Christmas tree. After searching the city, we found a scraggly one. We dragged it through the river because the bridges had been destroyed, took it home and put a candle on top. It was probably the worst thing ever created, but for us it was a beacon of hope for a better future.

RUSS MILLS- The most long-standing tradition I've observed on Christmas Eve Day is getting together with friends from high school for about 12 or 13 consecutive years. Now I get together with four friends from college. That's my ongoing tradition for Christmas spirit.

JAN HICKS- I recall being in the children's program at church on Christmas Eve. It was such a special event! I would always wear a new dress and after the services we would receive a bag of candy, nuts and fruit.

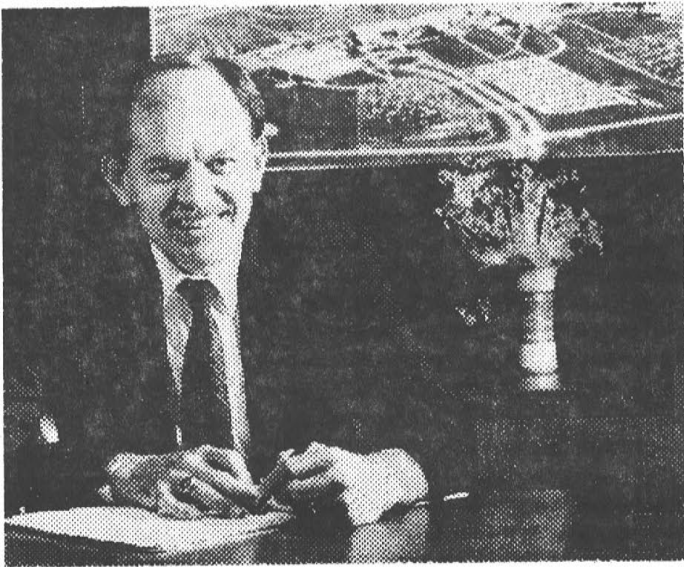
AL DUNIKOSKI- We have made it a tradition in past years to go to Wisconsin or the northern reaches of Illinois to cut down a Christmas tree--sometimes trampling through muddy fields or frozen tundra. I remember one time dragging a tree back in subzero weather and barely surviving! Afterwards we always go to Hackney's in Lake Zurich. Out in the wilderness the tree looks much smaller, and I usually have to cut three feet off of it! With our twenty-year-old daughter, we'll continue the tradition again this year.

PAT WISNER- When I was nine years old, my father bought a big record player for my mother. We kept it hidden behind the door in the dining room, telling mom it was for the neighbor. I remember her surprise when she opened it on Christmas morning!

MIKE KNUDSEN- Over the ocean and through the air to my future in-laws I went. The pilot knew the way that carried the plane through the sunny skies. Hey! Last year I had my first Christmas with my wife and her family in Madrid, Spain. It was also the first time I've had crab, calamari, octopus, oysters, shrimp, and other generous portions of seafood for Christmas dinner. Of course, I always enjoy the traditional dinner, but I could never bring my swimming suit to my grandmother's in Iowa!

MARY JO WILLIS- I have a rather large extended family that gathered for Christmas Eve dinner at my aunt and uncle's, followed by Mass given by my cousin, a priest, in the living room. We would all participate. Afterwards, we'd open presents. The following day we'd all have breakfast together and later a Christmas dinner at my mother and father's.

(continued on page 2)



The President's Message

In the November Insider, I addressed faculty efforts to enhance the teaching/learning process. This month I would like to discuss staff involvement.

The teaching/learning process can certainly be enhanced by an environment that makes students feel comfortable and wanted. As a matter of fact, I think Harper College should have as its underlying philosophy the statement, "You are important here!" That means staff members greeting students with a friendly smile and a cheerful hello or a "May I help you?" We must provide an ambiance supportive of their comfort and well being.

Students are exposed to employees in various capacities before even meeting their instructors. From the time students first express an interest in Harper until the last day of a course, our attitudes and behavior can either encourage and motivate them by demonstrating an interest in their success, or discourage them from further academic pursuits.

The physical aspects that can contribute to a positive climate are clean hallways and restrooms, neat classrooms, attractive campus grounds, cleared walkways in the wintertime, and efficient heating and cooling of campus buildings. Still other factors are telephone manners. How easy or difficult do we make it for students to inquire about a class or program in which they might be interested? How patient, pleasant and polite are we in responding to questions or complaints? Similarly, the length of time a student must stand in line--whether in the bookstore, in the cafeteria, during registration, at the cashier, or elsewhere--may constitute a frustrating impediment or may underscore a caring attitude. Equally important is the manner in which we relate to students around the campus--a public safety officer helping a student in the roadway, classified staff explaining support services available to a student, professional staff providing advice regarding a student's campus life, health service staff attending to illnesses, a bookstore clerk assisting with textbook purchases, admissions staff simplifying the intricacies of registration, and so on.

Those of us who are not faculty members must realize that our sensitivity to students' needs has a significant impact on whether the student will make it to that first course at Harper College. A College environment can be intimidating--to an 18 year old fresh out of high school, to an 80 year old trying to learn new skills and to all others in between.

The staff at Harper College is doing many of these things well and I commend you for your efforts. Our challenge now is to continue to provide the encouragement, the friendly manner, the efficient service and the information necessary to all potential students. We must also look for ways to improve what we're doing. As we do, benefits will also accrue in our working relationships with each other. As we practice the philosophy, "You are important here!" we will find our work environment a much more satisfying one.

Memories

(continued from page one)

JULIE GUINEY- Our family was taking a trip to Florida over Christmas to visit my grandparents. I was worried that Santa might not be able to find us on Route 65. The night before we left home, my father went out to pull our car into the garage/ When he came in, he had two bags of toys and explained that he had heard sleighbells, looked up and saw Santa drop the bags. He knew we wouldn't be home on Christmas morning. That renewed my belief in Santa for another year.

CLAUDIA CARLSEN- We had a Christmas that was quite different when our dog had 12 puppies born one Christmas Eve while I was fixing dinner. It was really interesting!

BOB ZILKOWSKI- Every Christmas the whole family goes to church on Christmas Eve and returns home to pose for a family picture. Then we all have dinner and open presents. The next morning everyone leaves for other family obligations or vacations.



Board of Trustees Chairman Offers End-of-Year Summary

Reflecting back on the past year, I am pleased with the progress the College has made," reports Board of Trustees Chairman Barbara Barton.

Barton states that the College is working with a healthy budget. Citing the fund balance, she notes that the surplus funds were planned to be used for major repairs of the parking lots and building renovations that may not be eligible for funding through Life Safety levies or state reimbursement. In the long term, it is anticipated that there will be a reduction of fund balances. She explains that the Board will be addressing that problem.

Academically, the College continues to maintain its high quality of education with more faculty members and administrators initiating new steps to ensure student success. Barton reinforces the Board's position that Harper must continue to offer the best education at a reasonable cost. Efforts in this direction have been admirable and the Board wishes to thank faculty and staff members for the competence and dedication they continue to show.

Barton also says she is pleased with the support that College employees have shown the new president, and that it has been refreshing to observe the strong leadership, new direction and stimulating challenges that President Thompson has brought to the College. She further states that it is inspiring to both the Board and the rest of the Harper community to forge new grounds and avoid the stagnation most institutions face at this stage of their development.

The current vision process—specifically the focus groups and community involvement—are a step in the right direction, she said, and specific goals will challenge us to do new things to serve the community better.

"Harper's Board of Trustees is a dedicated and experienced group which naturally has to be responsive to many constituencies—students, employees and taxpayers," she says. "Occasionally there are conflicting views due to this diversity, but I believe this conflict is healthy and allows the Board to view different facets of an issue and thus make a better decision."

Barton also states that she is grateful that, for the first time, this Board has set goals for itself and has participated in retreats to improve its performance. "We cannot, as a college, rest on our laurels. We face so many challenges ahead," she adds. In the coming years she would like to see the completion of the building program with all or most of the funding coming from the state, a preferred future statement outlining a direction for the Board to take, faculty and staff who are happy with their jobs and continuing to participate in the governance of the College, continuing good health and vitality for our president, financial health of the College which will ensure excellent programs, the conclusion of a new collective bargaining agreement that is fair and just to both our employees and other constituencies, and the development of a strong Board team.

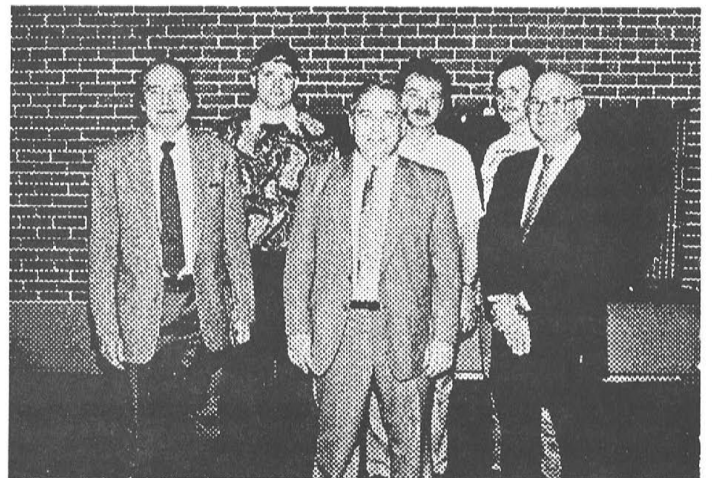
In conclusion, Barton says, "I am fortunate to be involved with the College at this exciting time."



Student Affairs Vice President Bonnie Henry presents an award to Rolling Meadows High School Principal Howard Sandlund. The award recognizes the high school for its commitment to excellence and achievement in higher education. It was presented during Rolling Meadows Night held on campus in November.



Members of SCORE are available at the Northeast Center to counsel entrepreneurs and small business owners on various topics. For information, or to make an appointment, call the Northeast Center at 537-8660.



Canadian businessmen, on campus to participate in a small business management and training workshop, pose with Instructor Richard McConnell (front center). The Canadians are distributors for Westfalia Systemat, an international company based in Elk Grove Village.

INSIDER'S VIEW OF GEORGE DORNER

George Dorner, dean of TM/PS, share his hobby with a quarter of a million other ham radio operators in the United States. His special interest is low-power transmissions.

The increase in sunspot activity in the last few months has especially spurred his interest in the hobby, as long-distance reception has been excellent. In the last few weeks he has spoken to hams on Johnston Island in the mid-Pacific; in Cypress, a Mediterranean island; and in Gambia, on Africa's west coast. Dorner says the Iron Curtain has never impeded ham communications, but that there are even more contacts now with the changing political scene.

Dorner also serves as the treasurer of two hobbyist groups which he helped to found. One is CAPRA, a group of Chicago packet radio enthusiasts using the latest ham approach--a blend of radio and data communications technologies. The other, the O-9 User's Group, is an international computer organization.

"Most of my hobby interests are related to what we do in the TM/PS division, and I like the people I work with," he says. "I feel I've been very lucky to be in this position at Harper."

Born: Frankfort, Indiana

Education: B.A. Math/Physics, De Pauw University

M.S. Mathematics, Purdue University

A.B.D. Mathematics, Illinois Institute of Technology

Family: Wife, Mary; son, Bill, 22; and daughter, Susan Sullivan, 25

Favorite Food: I like them all--I eat anything but hominy and black walnuts!

Best advice my parents gave me: My father urged me to latch on to my wife before she got away.

I would like to learn: how to get other people excited about MY good ideas.

I can't stand: long meetings on general topics.

If time and money were not a problem: I might travel farther and more frequently.

One thing I've learned in life: It's better to run the risk of poking holes in your shirt pockets than to use plastic pocket liner and have people think you're a techno-nerd. Also, I never wear keys on my belt.

Last movie seen: *Working Girl*

Favorite book: anything by S. J. Perelman, James Thurber, or Robert Benchley.



TOOT YOUR OWN HORN

Or, let us do it for you! The staff of the Insider would like to share your accomplishments with our readers.

Have you—or has one of your colleagues—received an honor, accomplished a goal, won an award or had something published? Do you have a hobby or special interest you would like to share? The Insider wants to know!

Contact your division dean or any of the following representatives with your news:

Jean Hoffman, LRC, chairman of the Classified Employees Council

Terry Bachara, TM/PS

Charlene Christin, Bursar

Betty Cords, LS/HS

Lorel Kelson, Print Shop

Paula Long, Academic Computing

Bill Neumann, Media Services

Mary Polniaszek, Health Services

Linda Pones, CAD/CAM

Pat Wisner, Chairman of the Pro/Tech Employees Council

Or, contact us directly at extension 2512. All information needs to be received by the first of the month for the issue published at midmonth.



Eugene Magad, associate professor of material management, receives a congratulatory handshake from President Thompson at a reception feting the publication of the book, *Total Materials Management*, which Magad co-authored.



FROM THE CHAIR ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

The Admissions Committee has been set up to review and evaluate the admissions policies, processes and procedures of the College. Under the leadership of chairmen Roger Mussell and Jane Allendorph, the committee establishes procedural guidelines on the appropriate admission of students, approves admissions criteria and sets up procedural guidelines to ensure a consistent admission process for limited enrollment and selective enrollment programs.

The committee is made up of five faculty members who represent career programs, limited enrollment/selective admission career programs, baccalaureate programs and student development; the director of admissions; the dean of LS/HS; one academic administrator; and one student.

Dean of Admissions and Registrar Steve Catlin says "The admissions committee actions are designed to assure student preparedness and success at Harper College." He adds that the committee is currently reviewing requirements for admission to Harper's transfer programs and that, in the near future, the College will require proficiency preparation for admission programs. This will be in effect no later than fall, 1993, by state mandate.

Focus On Business and Social Science Division

In the Business and Social Science Division, Harper's largest academic division, the telephones ring non-stop. "I think we represent about 40 percent of the enrollment at Harper," Administrative Secretary Eva Groft explains. The division is headed by Dean Tom Johnson with a staff of six secretaries, all of whom serve as the support staff for 46 full-time and 175 part-time faculty members.

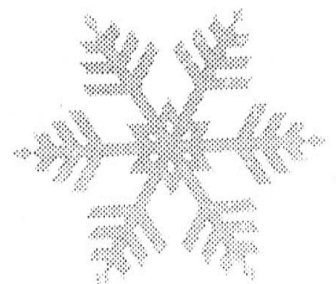
The division includes the disciplines of accounting, anthropology, banking, business information management, data processing, economics, education, food service management, geography, history, journalism, legal secretarial, legal technology, management, marketing, material management, political science, psychology, real estate, secretarial, sociology and word processing.

Staff members say they enjoy the "people contact" with both the faculty and the students as well as the variety of work the division handles. "It's such a mishmash of things," Groft adds, "and if you stay here long enough you'll hear everything!"

During a typical semester, the staff works on such diverse projects as schedules, budgets, reports and faculty contracts. They also assist faculty members by preparing class lists, typing class materials, giving make-up exams—and providing information for those non-stop telephone calls!



Business and Social Sciences staff members (left to right) Belinda Smart, Barbara Bednarz, Eva Groft and Halina Polakowski prepare to assist students and faculty members.



Department Developments

Harper faculty and staff members participated in the Great Lakes Regional Conference of the American Technology Education Association held November 1-3 in South Bend, Indiana. **Orville Northstrum**, manager of Harper's CAD/CAM center, spoke on "Customer Service in CAD and Graphics Instruction." **Roger Mussell**, coordinator of electronics technology; **Salah Falouji**, instructor of electronics; and **George Dorner**, dean of TM/PS, served as presiders at workshops. In 1988, Mussell was honored by the national ATEA as "Outstanding Technical Educator."

Part-time history faculty member **Donald J. Rogers** has published two books which are available in Harper's LRC. The first is *Press vs. Government: Constitutional Issues* (Messner:1986), which summarizes major court cases and events involving freedom of the press. The second book, *Banned! Book Censorship in the Schools*, (Messner:1988), presents case histories of the censorship battles of the 1970s. Rogers has also been honored in *Who's Who in U.S. Writers, Editors and Poets*.

Jane Thomas, associate professor of Child Development and Coordinator of the Child Learning Center at Harper, has recently published her fifth children's book. Entitled *The March*, the book tells the story of Martin Luther King, Jr., and the principles for which he stood. The book has been purchased for all kindergartens in the Cleveland School District and has received recognition from the Dr. Martin Luther King Center in Atlanta.

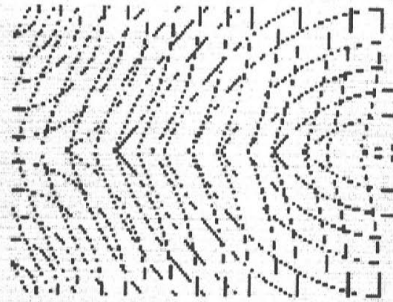
Theresa Reinhard has been appointed manager of the New Directions Program in AED. She will be working on site at Motorola, where she will be in charge of the workplace literacy program. A welcome also goes to **James Dawson**, who has been hired to serve as a clerk in the bookstore and to **Chester Cross** who will work as a clerk/dispatcher for Public Safety. Congratulations go to **Donna Drake**, who has been promoted to the position of secretary for the vice president of Administrative Services.

Condolences to **Bob Loitfellner**, Physical Plant, on the death of his mother; to **Joy Droll**, Office Skills Center, on the death of her brother; and to **Phil Caeti**, accounting adjunct faculty member, on the death of his son.

We also send condolences to the family of **Ed Bowman**, Physical Plant, on his death due to a heart attack.

Retiree's Corner

Bookstore Manager Pat Furtak retired on December 1 after 14 years of service to Harper. She and her husband plan to move to Murphysboro, Illinois, where they have purchased an A-frame home. Murphysboro is about 10 miles west of Carbondale where the couple's daughter attends school.



Marlene Hunt-Brasch greets guests at the opening of her exhibition on campus in November. Her collection featured computer-generated design and other prints.

The Harper Insider is the monthly Harper College newsletter produced by Publications and Communication Services. We cordially invite all employees to contribute stories and information before the first of the month for the issue published at midmonth. Please contact Anne Frost, A302, extension 2512.