

The

## insider

A Publication for Employees of William Rainey Harper College

Volume 6, Number 3 April, 1991

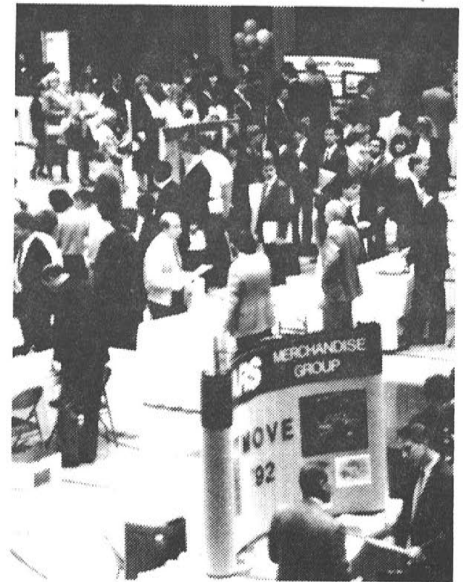
## Employment Fair '91 Draws 2,000 Job Seekers

When more than 2,000 northwest suburban job seekers converged upon Building M on March 26, their reactions to Harper's fourth annual Employment Fair were positive and realistic.

"I've had some good leads," said one suburban father of three. "The fair has also given me the opportunity to see what's available in the area and what companies are really looking for." He added that the fair was a good place to make contact with a wide variety of companies in one day, as nearly 135 area businesses were represented.

Attendees were realistic about the likelihood of their coming out of the fair with a job. "Most of the exhibitors were not prepared to interview for specific openings. But I've made initial contacts and now I'll need to take the initiative and follow up the leads," said a resident new to the area.

Exhibitors were equally pleased with the results of the fair, noting that the caliber of job seekers was generally professional. "Corporate downsizing is apparent," a personnel representative from one suburban bank noted. She added that she had also spoken with a



**Representatives from more than 135 area companies were on campus March 26 for Harper's annual Employment Fair.**

number of people who were looking to change their career direction.

Placement Specialist Chris Kranz, who coordinated the annual fair, said this was the most successful fair thus far. "It's nice to have an event where we can serve the community at large and offer them assistance," he said, adding that he was delighted to bring together job seekers with area employers and hear the individual success stories of their participation.

### inside

2

The President's  
Message

3

Focus On:  
International Studies  
Program

4

Insider's View of  
Patty Roberts

Harper Publication  
Wins Award

5

Preferred Future  
Opinion Poll

6

Departmental  
Developments

New Direct Line for  
CE Registration

## The President's Message

### Transition/Change— What are the Effects?

As plans are being developed for Harper's Silver Anniversary Celebration, I have been reflecting on the changes and growth that have taken place over the past 25 years. Harper's first president, Bob Lahti, was a builder. His function was to establish the basic foundation, to build a strong base and to establish the cornerstones of affordable quality education and community service that are still foremost in the mission of the College.

He was followed by Jim McGrath, who nurtured the young institution and led the maturation process after the dust had settled. Harper's reputation as a first rate community college spread, programs and services were developed and community support grew.

When I joined the Harper family, the College reflected the changing needs of the community. I began my tenure by exploring the theme "Building Community" based on an examination of the future of community colleges made by several leaders of the nation's community college sector. I followed up by meeting with employee groups throughout that first year—listening to



their concerns and attempting to learn as much as possible about our campus community—the core of service to students. It became clear to me that we needed a "collective vision" of our purposes as an institution—some common picture of a vital, energy-filled, exciting learning environment. This, of course, was the beginning of the "Preferred Future" process.

There have been many changes over the past 25 years and the College community is experiencing a transition period. While change is necessary in order to grow, I also recognize that change is often uncomfortable and is sometimes viewed as threatening. Each of us views change from our unique perspective. There are increasing numbers of retirements among faculty, staff and administrators and those numbers will grow for the next several years. More new faces and new ideas will surface at Harper and the collective impact will be an increase in our diversity. Our challenge is not only to prepare ourselves to face and accept those changes, but to welcome them. Growth can take place only when there is a willingness to accept the changes around and within us.

I would ask each of you to examine your own feelings about the changes at Harper and ask you not to accept change just for change's sake but to see it as part of the natural growth process and an opportunity to expand your own

talents and meet personal goals as well as to be a part of the vital educational team at Harper. Fellow educator Sidney Parnes describes change as follows: "Change is bewilderingly rapid in our postindustrial era. We cannot always foresee what knowledge we will need in later years to meet life's challenges and problems. We can, however, develop attitudes and abilities that will help us to meet future situations creatively and inventively and to foresee as much of that future as possible. In this way, we can plan our actions rather than merely react to what happens. We can 'shock the future' instead of suffering 'future shock'."

That's what our future process is all about—recognizing that change is inevitable and developing positive attitudes to meet changing needs head on. Thank you for being part of the process.

*Paul Thompson*



**Patty Roberts**

Patty Roberts' enthusiasm for Harper has made her the perfect choice for the newly created post of Media Relations Specialist. "My job is to spread the good word about Harper—letting the community know the good things we're doing," she says.

She encourages the Harper faculty and staff to call and let her know what's going on in their areas—not only in terms of course offerings, but also to keep her posted on class projects and other human interest stories. "There are a thousand stories out here and I need help from everyone in order to know what's going on!" she says.

Before joining Harper's editorial staff in 1986, Roberts taught English and journalism in District 211. She has also worked as a public affairs director for NSACI and as a specialist in Harper's adult educational development department. She is eager to begin work on Harper's Silver Anniversary celebration scheduled for the fall of 1992 and encourages everyone to get involved. To contact her, call extension 2279 or stop by A313. (Her mail code is MED REL.)

## INSIDER'S VIEW of Patty Roberts

**Born:** Rocky River, Ohio

**Education:** B.A.—English, Cleveland State University

**Family:** Husband, Steve, and sons Steve, 22, and Scott, 19

**Interests:** Reading, golf and walking

**If time and money were not a problem:** I would live in a beach house on the Maine coast and write novels.

**I am working at learning to:** maintain balance.

**Best advice my parents gave me:** Have faith in God and yourself.

**Favorite food:** Anything chocolate

**Favorite movie:** *Shirley Valentine*

**Favorite books:** *Gold Coast*, by Nelson De Mille, and *You Can't Afford the Luxury of a Negative Thought*, by John Roger and Peter McWilliams.



**Sara Speicher and Mark Steffen, PUB, place a plaque honoring *The Scholarship Sourcebook* in the Building A Showcase. The publication won the third place Paragon Award for Best Brochure/Flyer I presented by the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations. The project was initiated by Admissions Outreach Associate Bev Hoffman with assistance from Rochelle Corso. Steffen provided the design work with editorial help from Speicher, and Molly Lindquist provided the typesetting. The publication was printed in Harper's Print Shop under the direction of Peter Gart.**

## FOCUS ON *International Studies Program*

*"The program offers a phenomenal opportunity  
for personal growth."*

*Janet Friend-Westney*

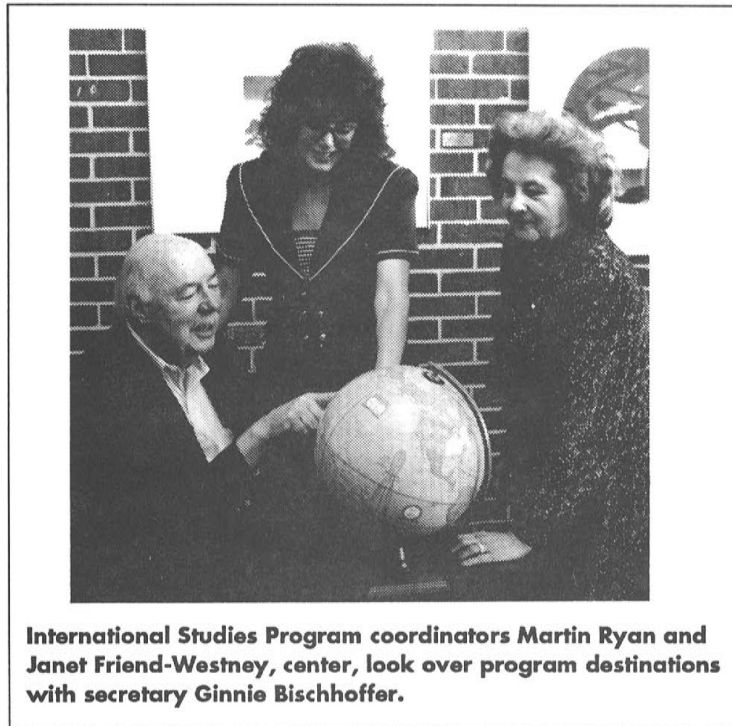
Imagine having the opportunity to trek the foothills of the Alps, tour the English countryside or trace the history of the Chichimeca Indians in Mexico. Participants in Harper's International Studies Programs can do all this—and more—during their semester abroad in Canterbury, England, Salzburg, Austria or Queretaro, Mexico.

Barbara Schmeltz, AE/LS, has sent both of her sons on the exchange and says that the experience opened up a whole new awareness for the boys. "My son Matthew (22) has developed more of an interest in cultural activities—plays and concerts, for example—since his stay in England." Son Christopher, 19, arrived in Salzburg shortly after the East German wall came down and was affected by the European political climate during his stay. "Since his semester in Salzburg he reads and understands more about international politics," she says. "In fact, he has decided to go into international business and would like to live in Europe."

Student Development Associate Professor Janet Friend-Westney, who coordinates the program with English Professor Martin Ryan, agrees with Schmeltz. "The program offers a phenomenal opportunity for personal growth," she says. "It changes the participants' lives;

they'll never look at the world in the same way again."

The program has been operational since 1987. At that time Harper joined a consortium of 36 colleges which, with Illinois State University, sent a group of students to London. The program has now grown to three destinations, and others are being considered.



**International Studies Program coordinators Martin Ryan and Janet Friend-Westney, center, look over program destinations with secretary Ginnie Bischoffer.**

"The London experience was a great starting point for us," Ryan says, adding that the program has now evolved from an all-American situation—American teachers and classmates—to a more culturally diverse experience. Students now live with host families, attend classes with students from that country, and learn from instructors who are from the host country.

Friend-Westney and Ryan stress that the program has been set up so that students earn transferable credits. The coordinators also work closely with Harper's Office of Development to secure scholarship assistance for participants. "Most of the students who have participated have taken out loans," Friend-Westney says. "They realize that this is an opportunity of a lifetime." Ryan adds, "They work very hard to get the money to go!"

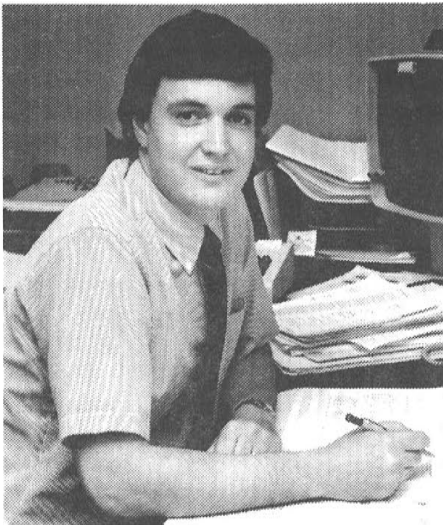
The program also provides development opportunities for Harper's faculty. Already six Harper faculty members have participated—teaching courses in biology, economics, art, history, English, math and computer science.

The consortium has also recently set up an exchange with Thailand. Thai students study in Illinois - some will be coming to Harper next semester and Illinois Community College faculty travel to, and provide technical assistance for, Thai institutions.

To participate in the exchange, Harper students must have completed 15 semester hours with a minimum grade point average of 2.75. The Mexican exchange also requires one year of high school Spanish and one semester of college Spanish (with a grade of B or higher) and a placement test. For more information, call Martin Ryan at extension 2284 or Janet Friend-Westney at extension 2522.



*The Insider polled employees across campus to check their reactions to Harper's Preferred Future. Here's what they had to say...*



**Tom Choice**

I am excited by the opportunities created by the Preferred Future process and believe we will see two major changes as a result. First, because the statements provide a campus-wide focus which encompasses all areas and all levels of the College, I believe we will see new partnerships created across campus. This shared vision provides an opportunity for collaboration among individuals, offices, programs and entire divisions who may not previously have worked together to accomplish shared objectives.

Second, with the obvious renewed emphasis upon quality, I believe we will see a change in the way we look at what we do. We are experiencing increasing pressure from those we serve to develop means to measure the quality of our efforts and to be held accountable for establishing and maintaining high standards. Foremost will be the challenge of establishing meaningful criteria for evaluating programs and services and reviewing current evaluation practices to determine where changes are necessary.



**Don Sedik**

The major changes I see occurring at Harper College as a result of the Preferred Future process are several. First, we have obtained information to improve the ways we fulfill our educational mission as a comprehensive community college. Secondly, we have re-established vital communication links with a significant cross section of student, community and business groups that are imperative to the future effectiveness of Harper College. And, finally, we have taken the opportunity for critical self-evaluation to make sure our educational planning strategies will allow us to reach our primary educational goals and objectives.



**Charlene Christin**

The Preferred Future mission assures me that Harper is going to remain an exciting and challenging place to work. During the past ten years as the bursar, I have enjoyed being involved in the steady and constant changes that have taken place. The Business Office should be involved in major changes since literally every student who takes a class at Harper has to deal with this office at some point or on some level. With the expectations of future enrollments, the Business Office will have to be expanded in terms of space and staff as well as state of the art equipment to handle the increased work load. I am personally looking forward to being part of the team that implements these types of changes.



**Kay Turner**

As the northwest suburbs grow, I fully expect the Preferred Future process to keep pace with society's changing needs. By staying in touch with the concerns of its population, Harper College will continue to provide what the public wants. We have to be innovators of new ideas. The process should strive to implement programs that are necessary for present and future trends. To act on these trends is to maintain our standard in the community.



**Frank Solano**

A major change resulting from the Preferred Future process that can be expected is related to the Preferred Future statement "Create an environment for international/multicultural educational experiences which promote thought, appreciation and respect for individual rights and awareness of the global interdependence of all human groups."

The recent census data clearly indicate that the Harper community has grown in terms of cultural diversity. The make-up of students, faculty, staff and administrators at Harper is expected to change so that it reflects the cultural diversity of the very community we serve. Less than this can only be interpreted as our devaluation of diversity and would not be very "visionary" of us.

continued on page 6

# Departmental Developments

The Harper Child Learning Center has been selected as one of nine exemplary programs by the Illinois State Board of Education. More than 90 programs were considered for this honor. In addition, Harper Child Development faculty member **Jane Thomas** is serving as the president of the National Coalition for Campus Child Care, Inc., an organization that promotes the existence of quality campus child care programs and serves as an advocate for the needs of children and families...**Marlene Hunt-Brasch's** colored computer drawing was selected for display in Harper's 15th Annual National Print and Drawing Exhibition. Marlene is the supervisor of the Graphic Design department...English Professor **Betty Hull** presented a talk on "The Keys to Success" to the Business and Professional Women's Club of Chicago.

Adjunct nursing faculty member **Janice Gries-Griffin** has had her article "Pre-pregnancy Planning Boosts the Odds of a Healthy Baby" published in *Chicago Parent* magazine. She was also one of two health professionals nationwide chosen to represent the National Organization for Obstetric, Gynecologic and Neonatal Nurses in a six-day "Nurse in Washington Internship" March 10-15...History and Political Science Professor **Sharon Alter** participated in a Sangamon State University-produced video, *America's Judiciary: A Bicentennial of Change*, which will be distributed through the Television Office of Sangamon State and the Illinois State Board of Education.

**Julie Hunter**, supervisor of the Northwest Cardiac/Diabetes Rehab Center, presented a seminar on "Exercise and Diabetes" to the nursing staff of Northwest Community Hospital. The center has also recently received recognition and a cash award from Merck, Sharp and Dohme... **Amy Hauenstein**, Admissions Outreach coordinator, will serve as a panel member during the Illinois Association of College Admissions Counselors Conference April 24-26. She will speak on Harper's on-campus recruitment activities, specifically citing the "How Did I Get a 7 am Math Class" program...Financial Aid Associate **Robert Laws** served as a moderator during the Illinois Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators conference on April 9 in Champaign-Urbana. His subject was "Packaging Guidelines and Philosophies" on the ways colleges can award financial aid to students...Audiovisual Media Specialist **John Sturz** has been asked to serve a two-year term on the Suburban Audiovisual Advisory Committee of the North Suburban Library System.

We send a hearty welcome to Harper's newest staff members! **Lisa Callas** has been hired as a part-time Admissions Outreach clerk, **Glenda Mill** will serve as Harper's Grants and Special Events specialist and **Mary Lee Azawi** has been hired as an ESL registration and assessment specialist.

We send our condolences to **Therese Cummings**, associate professor of mathematics, and to Leon Hussissian, AV Technician, on the deaths of their mothers.

**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 twenty-fifth of the month for the issue published the following month. Please contact Ann Goldberg, A302, extension 2512.

1200 West Algonquin Road

Palatine, Illinois 60067-7398

# 397-3377

Registering for Harper's continuing education courses will be even easier beginning April 15! A new registration line, 708/397-3377, will be operational and callers may dial directly to register for all continuing education offerings.

When registering, be sure to have the course number and section and your social security number available.

# 397-3377

## Preferred Future Opinion Poll

(continued from page 5)



**Judy Longmore**

I work in a department (LAC) that is devoted totally to those programs and services that the Preferred Future talks about when it refers to student success. I can foresee an increase in activity and an expansion of services from the Learning Assistance Center to better meet two of the Preferred Future goals: providing comprehensive educational programs and services to ensure the success of students and providing more support for a service-oriented approach to students. I personally see myself--very busy!