

The

insider

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"It's a perfect match!" says Paul Sipiera, president of the Planetary Studies Foundation and Harper professor of astronomy and earth science. He is referring to the new agreement between Harper College and the foundation, which is not affiliated with the College.

The agreement, signed at last month's Board meeting, sealed a pact between the College and the foundation to build a multi-disciplinary science center, which would include a planetarium.

The 44,000-square-foot center will be financed by the foundation, which will pay the College one dollar per year for rent. "Our foundation members . . . are committed to this project and are planning a number of fundraising activities as well as continuing to solicit private and corporate donations to raise the money to build the facility," Sipiera said. The cost of the building is estimated at \$5-6 million, and the agreement stipulates that these funds must be raised by December 1996.

It has not yet been determined where the facility will be built on campus, but the architect's plan calls for the physical center of the building to house a star chamber with classrooms, exhibits and administrative offices occupying the remainder of the building. While the foundation will offer classes to the community, Harper astronomy and earth science faculty members will be able to rent the facility for their courses. The agreement also stipulates that if the Planetary Science Foundation abandons the facility, it would transfer its entire interest in the lease and the facility to the College.

Before signing the agreement President Paul Thompson said, "The new facility has great potential to enhance the educational opportunities for the entire region. The timing (of this project) is excellent" to which Sipiera added, "We feel everyone wins in this cooperative effort!"

(Patty Roberts contributed to this article.)

The President's Message



Moneyback guarantee—lifetime warranty—no hassle return policy

Businesses know that savvy consumers expect a quality product and back it up with a strong warranty. Educational institutions realize that they are also in competition for students. The Illinois Community College Board proposes that Illinois become the first state in the nation to offer a comprehensive program guaranteeing the skills of its community college graduates.

The ICCB has challenged the state's 40 community college districts to take the initiative to stand behind the skills and competencies of their graduates and to demonstrate that education is accountable to its consumers—the students and the employers of Illinois.

Under the plan, the ICCB will develop a framework or outline for the program guarantees, beginning with a two-year development and testing period. Colleges are being asked to identify occupational programs to be guaranteed and to establish competencies that graduates can expect to obtain. The guaranteed skills will be incorporated into revised curricula and course descriptions.

Prairie State College is the first Illinois community college to adopt a policy offering educational guarantees for both transfer and technical programs. It will serve as a pilot program for implementing the state's guarantee initiative.

The ICCB and the community colleges will work together to identify essential skills and workplace competencies for each program and to develop corresponding assessment processes to ensure that the competencies are attained. If a student graduates without those competencies, a determination jointly made by the graduate and the employer, the college will reenroll the student, tuition-free in the course needed to address the skill deficiency.

Obviously there is a lot to be worked out by each community college in order to adapt its own educational guarantee program. We must be prepared when asked for input and help as Harper develops its answer to the ICCB call for quality and responsiveness. The educational guarantee process could be a valuable tool to augment the many programs and services already in place to ensure student success.

Our central purpose is teaching and learning. As long as the educational guarantee concept becomes a reinforcement and support for that purpose, it will lead us toward fulfillment of the first two statements of our Preferred Future: that quality teaching and active learning be a hallmark at Harper College and that Harper College will provide comprehensive educational programs and services to ensure the success of students.

FOCUS ON

Office of Finance

"Because Harper is a labor intensive organization, more than 80 percent of our budget goes toward employee costs such as benefits, wages and salaries," says Dean Vic Berner, who heads Harper's Office of Business Services/Finance.

The office includes two separate areas, Business Services and Finance. Business Services handles payroll, purchasing, accounting and vendor payments and, Berner explains, "The Finance Department handles anything that involves the expenditure or receiving of funds." This involves cash receipts, investments and the disbursement of funds.

Monies for Harper's \$52 million budget reach Harper in three categories: real estate taxes, student tuition and fees, and state apportionment that is based on the number of student hours. Once these monies reach the College, Berner protects these assets by monitoring them and recommending investments. The College does its own investing.

Investments

All investments follow guidelines and restrictions set forth by the State of Illinois, the Illinois School Code and the Community College Code, with further restrictions set by Harper's Board of Trustees. "The Board takes no risk in its investments," Berner says, adding that College investments are limited to collateralized certificates of deposit, treasury bills, bonds and instruments with the full faith and credit of the United States government.

"We have to be sure that the monies will be available when we need them."

Vic Berner

This conservative mode of investing pays a lower interest rate but offers more security. "Actually," Berner says, "it simplifies things." He adds that the College is a member of the Illinois Treasurers' Pool and the Illinois Liquid Asset Trust, which are able to shop for better rates both within and outside the state.

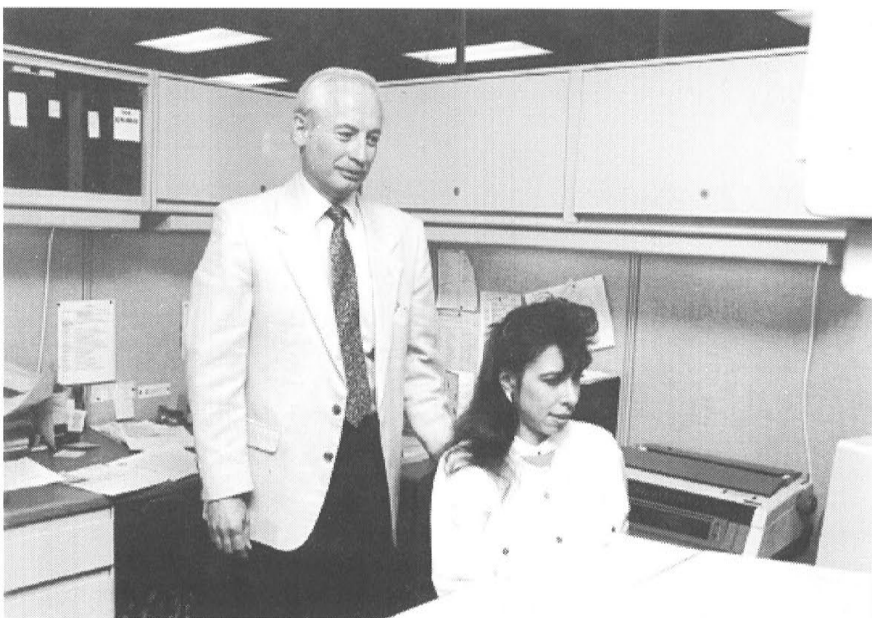
An important part of investing for the Finance Office is timing when investments will mature. "We have to be sure that the monies will be available when we need them," Berner says. "Obviously we don't want to break CDs; instead, we need to time when the investments come due in order to meet payroll, bondholder payments and other expenses."

Insurance

The Finance Office is also responsible for purchasing, coordinating and monitoring insurance coverage for the College—including insurance for physical loss, personal injury, liability, health, Medicare, Worker's Compensation and unemployment.

"Our agency handles the processing of our claims," says Berner. However, Harper's Finance Office coordinates the requests and discussions between the claim adjuster and Harper employees.

So, next Thursday when you head to the bank to cash your Harper payroll check, you may want to thank the people in our Office of Business Services/Finance — they've made sure that the money is available to meet those payments.



Vic Berner and Myriam Hegy staff Harper's Office of Finance.

INSIDER'S VIEW of Don DeBiase



Don DeBiase

Don DeBiase lives by his family motto: "I'd rather live one year as a lion than 100 as a lamb." In fact, if you spend a few moments with him, you immediately pick up on his high energy level.

"I'm the kind of guy who wants to get things done and get them done right," he explains, adding, "Somebody's got to take the bull by the horns." And as director of Harper's physical plant, he's in a position to do just that.

Don began his career in Elk Grove School District 59, where he served as director of buildings and grounds. During his nine and one-half years there, the district grew from five schools to 16 schools and built 47 additions. This experience served him well when he was hired by the College of DuPage to serve as the construction coordinator for its first building phase in the early 1970s and later as physical plant director of Morton Community College, which built five buildings simultaneously during his tenure.

"In my career, I'm accomplishing something all the time," he says, "and I've always left things better than when I found them!"

DeBiase plans to retire from Harper next spring—after he supervises the next phase of Harper's building plan. At that point, he will move to Gatlinburg, Tennessee, where he intends to build a house on the twelve acres of land he and his wife have purchased in the Smoky Mountains. "It's a beautiful place to sit, relax and enjoy life with my children and grandchildren!" he says.

Born: Niagara Falls, New York, the youngest of twelve children

Family: Married, with four children and seven grandchildren

If time and money were not a problem: I wouldn't know how to act!

I would like to learn: more about nature in general—trees, animals, lakes, streams, etc.

One thing I've learned in life: Work hard and you'll be successful.

The best things my parents taught me: Work hard, be honest and eat your broccoli.

Favorite food: Anything Italian

Favorite book: *Patton*

Favorite movie: *Patton* starring George C. Scott

I don't care much for: people who constantly complain and long meetings.

Retirees' Corner

The staff of *The Insider* has asked Harper retirees to write and let us know what they're doing. And already the notes are coming in. We heard from **Richard Klug**, former maintenance supervisor, who retired in 1985. He says he misses all his friends at Harper and remembers many good times here. Richard lives in Arlington Heights and spends time with his model railroading hobby and doing odd jobs for people who need the help.

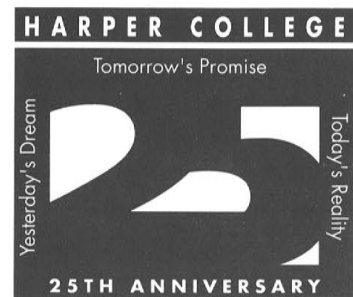
We also heard from former library assistant **Betty Cwik**, who retired in 1983. Betty lives in Elk Grove Village and spends her time sewing, playing golf, traveling and volunteering. She delivers Meals on Wheels once a week to the elderly.

Dorothy Fagan wrote from Ocala, Florida, where she and her husband, Gabriel, have retired. Dorothy was Harper's lead word processing operator when she retired in 1987.

Former director of Library Services **Ambrose Easterly**, who retired in 1982 after 15 years of service, now lives in Dowelltown, Tennessee. He's active in the AARP and DeKalb County Retired Teachers Association and also volunteers for Meals on Wheels. In his spare time he enjoys books, stamps, farming and visiting with people.

Soter George Kokalis, who retired last year, has been traveling (Florida, Texas and California) and is now involved in the State Universities Annuity Association. The organization serves retired pensioners, their survivors and working academic and classified staff employees over the age of 55. In his letter to *The Insider*, he strongly urges Harper employees to join the organization and get involved. If you are interested or have questions, give him a call at 708/490-0939.

Silver Anniversary



In order to better accommodate our guests for the Silver Anniversary Ball, the committee has changed the date from Saturday, October 24, 1992, to October 31, 1992. The committee is planning a grand evening of elegant dining and dancing to the sounds of Orchestra 33. A multi-media program is being planned for your enjoyment along with a number of other surprises.

Remember that the Silver Anniversary Ball is the only fundraising event scheduled for the celebration year and all proceeds will go to the Educational Foundation. The cost of the ball is \$100 per person and is black tie optional. It will be held in the elegant Michigan-Superior Room of the Woodfield Hilton. Tables of eight or ten can be reserved for groups. Look for your invitation shortly after school begins this fall.

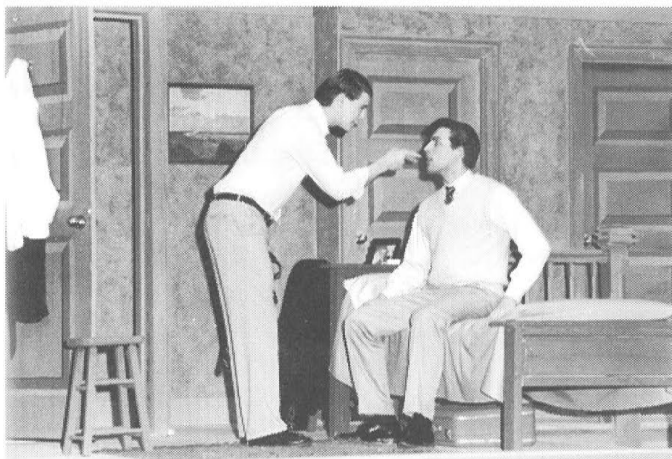
Other events for the year include a complimentary Kickoff Picnic for employees and their families (August 23), a 1950s and 1960s style sock hop for employees and friends (for a nominal charge) in February and a Community Day Open House to be held in the spring of 1993.

Patty Roberts

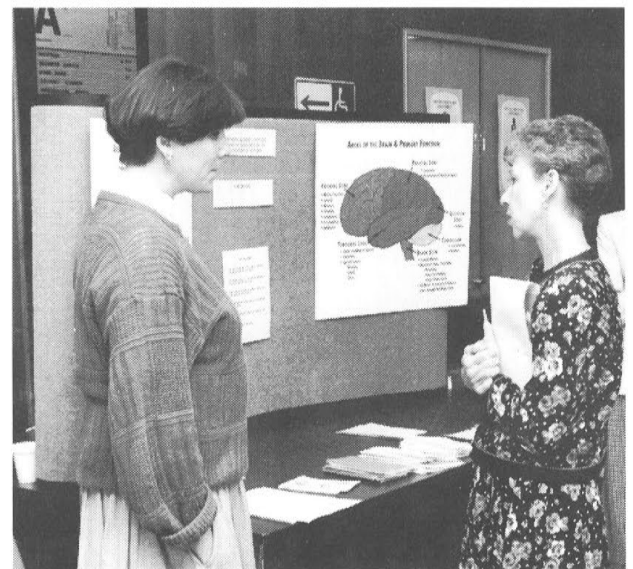
Inside Harper



Harper's Wellness Week raffle raised nearly \$2,000 for College wellness programs. Here, Mary Polniaszek, center, and Becky Santeler, right, of Health Services sell raffle chances. The winners: Betty Cords, DHY, won a trip for two to London; Will Hoffman, Human Performance Lab, won a stay at the Hawthorne Suites; and community member Rita Seraphim, Barrington, won tickets to Medieval Times.



Stanley (Tom Bentle) gives younger brother Eugene (Michael Komen) a lesson on the "ingredients of good comedy writing" during last month's performance of *Broadway Bound*. The play was directed by speech/theater instructor Todd Ballantyne.



Students, faculty and staff joined community members in observing Wellness Week in April. During the annual Health Fair, exhibitors from area agencies were on hand to answer questions and inform participants of their programs. Here, Joellen Freeding, PUB, right, talks with a representative from an area nursing association.

Harper faculty selected for international studies exchange

Jane Thomas (LS/HS) and Roger Mussell and Bill Punkay (TM/PS) have been selected to participate in a two-week faculty exchange between the Cheshire Consortium of International Studies and the Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs.

Each will be matched with a British academician in a similar field. The British will arrive at the Illinois colleges in August of 1992, and the Americans will travel to England, Scotland, and Ireland

in the spring of 1993. During their visits, they will live in private homes.

In previous exchanges, George Dorner, dean of TM/PS, and Tom Johnson, dean of BUS/SS, have participated as administrators, and this spring, art professor Michael Brown will teach at Cheltenham Gloucester College in England. The two-week duration of the exchange encourages cultural interchange and effective learning while keeping costs down.

To address its goal of increased internationalization, the College will offer more of these exchanges in the future.

Martin Ryan



Harper's Camerata Singers, directed by music assistant professor Tom Stauch, led the crowd in *The Star Spangled Banner* during opening ceremonies at the April 26 Cubs v. Pirates game at Wrigley Field.

Departmental Developments

Harper faculty and staff members are as active in their personal lives as they are here on campus!

We congratulate **Donna Drake**, ADM SER, on her run in the Boston Marathon! Donna's time was three hours, 51 minutes. She had qualified for the Boston run during the Chicago Marathon last October. Keep in mind that a marathon is 26.2 miles...And we also congratulate **Jan Cook**, PLG RES, who, as a member of the 100-voice choir of the New Oratorio Singers, sang the four-hour Johann Sebastian Bach piece, "St. Matthew Passion" throughout the Chicagoland area in April. The group has been chosen to open the 1993 International Church Music Festival in Oberammergau, Austria, as the featured U.S. chorus.

...and in the *So, you thought your life was hectic department*, meet the daughter of **Jan Trede**, OIS. Jan's daughter gave birth to a set of twins—a boy and a girl—in April, and also has an 11-month-old son and a 26-month-old son. Jan's other daughter also has a set of twin boys—born last April.

Members of the staff of the Center for Students with Disabilities have been on the go! Director **Tom Thompson** presented "How the Americans with Disabilities Act Will Affect Your Business" to members of the Arlington Heights Rotary Club...**Pascuala Herrera** represented the community college viewpoint during a panel presentation on Postsecondary Options at the Learning Disabilities Association Conference held in Atlanta...Linguistic Specialist **Kim Gibson-Harman** presented a program on hearing loss in later years to seniors at the Jewish Community Center in Buffalo Grove and a talk on "ESL Strategies for Building Reading Comprehension" at the Illinois Teachers of the Hearing Impaired Conference in Springfield. She also coordinated and moderated a panel on the Americans with Disabilities Act for a Breakfast at Harper program...

Sharon Willy co-presented two participatory workshops for literacy tutors, teachers and program directors at the Partnerships for Literacy IX Conference sponsored by the Illinois Literacy Council, Secretary of State Literacy Office, Illinois State Library and the Illinois State Board of Education. The workshops focused on a method of teaching phonics to adult learners...and **Beth Krueger** and **Tom Thompson** attended the annual international conference "Technology and Persons with Disabilities" sponsored by the Office of Disabled Student Services at California State University, Northridge.

Will Hoffman, director of Harper's Cardiac Rehab program, has passed an intensive certification program offered by the Owen Brown School of Ultrasonography. Hoffman took the course to determine whether the Cardiac Exercise Tech program should offer this coursework as part of its curriculum.

Reclassifications on campus this month include **Valentina Bagratuni**, instructor, and **Solveig Bender** and **Lillian Thiel**, assistant professors, TM/PS; and **Janis Bernero**, OC/PS, program assistant. **Jim Finke** has been appointed manager of OC/PS, and **Alice Johnson** has been hired as a program assistant in Corporate Services. Dean of Curriculum Development **George Voegel**, who retires from that position this spring, will serve as acting vice president of Academic Affairs following the resignation of Dennis Conners.

Faculty promotions for the 1992-3 academic year were awarded to **Dianne Batzkall**, interior design, and **Mark Healy**, economics, to assistant professor. Promoted to professor were **Cathy Albergo**, music, **Frances Brantley**, STU DEV, **Bob Campbell**, mechanical engineering technology, **Jack Dodds**, English, **Dominic Magno**, math/computer science, **Pat Mulcrone**, AED, **Peg Smith**, legal secretarial program coordinator, and **Joseph Sternberg**, English.

Congratulations to **Kay Turner**, PHY PLT, and husband, Tracy, on the birth of their daughter, Johanna Grace. Johanna weighed in at 7 lbs., 8 oz. And congratulations also to **Tom Choice**, PEAR, and his wife, Sue, on the birth of their daughter, Meghan Elizabeth on April 22.

We send our condolences to **Lee Vogel**, LAC, on the death of her stepdaughter, and to the family of **Martha Erickson**. Martha had served on Harper's ESL faculty since 1988.

The **in** sider

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