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A Publication for Employees of William Rainey Harper College

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## College Observes All Employee Day

During Harper's All Employee Day observance on November 11, keynote speaker Rita Emmett stressed the importance of being as kind to ourselves as we are to others. Using the theme "Taking Charge of Your Life," other sessions were planned to encourage communication, forestall crime, and introduce employees to deafness and learning disabilities.



Participants worked with facilitator John Kelly during the session "Communicating Through Group Experience," which provided hands-on problem-solving experiences. Here (from left) Beth Quarnstrom, Maureen Reichmuth, Ellen Nowickas, Janice Adams and Linda Soto prepare for one of the activities.

*inside*

2

The President's Message

3

Focus On: Wellness Programs

4

Insider's View of Jon DeJonker

5

Inside Harper

6

Departmental Developments

*over*

## The President's Message

As we close out this calendar year, I would like to reflect on our successes—particularly as they apply to our Preferred Future commitment to quality teaching and learning. For this year we have had many successes—and have earned important recognition for them.

In last month's issue of the *Insider*, I noted that our Coordinated Studies team had won the Illinois Community College Board's Award for Excellence in Teaching and Learning for its "Global Village" program. We're extremely honored to receive this award and congratulate the faculty and staff who have worked so hard to make it successful.

In addition to this award, we have other successes! Harper's Adult Educational Development department, for example, won the Illinois Council of Community College Administrators' Bright Idea Award for its Adult Neighborhood Literacy and Community Policing: A Three-Part Model program. This program teams Harper's adult literacy programs with School District 15 and High School District 214; the Rolling Meadows Police Department and the Sheriff's Police of Cook County community policing programs; as well as community organizations such as the Girl Scouts-Illinois Crossroads, the Bridge and Evenstart. Liz McKay, dean of AE/LS, and I accepted this award in Springfield last month for Pat Mulcrone, who was unable to attend.

We've also just learned that Harper's chemistry department—in a consortium formed with the chemistry departments of Chicago State University and the University of Illinois-Chicago—has been awarded a \$49,976 planning grant from the National Science Foundation. Julie Ellefson Kuehn and Barbara Will Bakel will be the primary investigators on this project, which will create, share and evaluate curriculum changes in chemistry and related areas. Kuehn and Bakel are charged with addressing both the general and organic sequences and the non-majors courses. They will also collaborate with the consortium to (1) develop a general set of materials to introduce research and life-related examples into chemistry courses, and (2) sponsor an annual symposium on science education issues. This planning grant is effective for one semester beginning January 1, with the full grant proposal due June 1.

In addition, Mercedes McGowen and Phil DeMarois of Harper's mathematics department have been awarded a grant of approximately \$200,000 from the National Science Foundation to develop, pilot, refine and implement a restructured algebra curriculum for community college students. McGowen and DeMarois intend to use their study as a model for the College's mathematics department and to ensure greater math literacy and improved success rates for students who intend to take subsequent courses.



We also have news that student Janet Wade was selected as the only community college student to win the Lincoln Academy of Illinois Student Laureate Award. This award is presented to students with exemplary curricular and extracurricular activities. I was honored to join Janet and her family in Springfield, where Governor and Mrs. Edgar presented her with a medallion and certificate.

I am also pleased to report that Harper's Educational Foundation sponsored a successful ball on October 30. Proceeds from this event benefit the College's art, music, speech and theater areas.

But Harper's commitment to quality teaching and learning also extends to the youngest members of the College community! In fact, our Child Learning Center has recently been awarded a \$5,000 Good Samaritan Grant from the CBS Foundation. The grant money will be used to provide partial scholarships for child care fees, to establish a lending library of parenting books and periodicals, to organize and present workshops for parents, and to provide affordable consulting services.

The recognition that we have earned is well deserved, and I congratulate all involved. We now look forward to moving ahead on new projects—continuing to focus on our commitment to quality teaching and learning.

## FOCUS ON

# Wellness Programs

There are no more excuses! Harper's new Employee Wellness Program, which offers release time for wellness activities, is underway, and you're invited to join—free of charge.

"This program isn't just for the thin, fit and already health conscious," says Char Padovani, Harper's wellness coordinator. "It's for everyone. We offer programming that includes all areas of wellness—spiritual, emotional, social/environmental, intellectual and occupational—as well as physical fitness."

Before Padovani joined the Harper staff this fall, some wellness activities were already available. With her guidance and the recommendations of the Institutional Wellness Committee, however, wellness activities have been combined into a unified, cohesive program.

In addition to the Employee Wellness Program, Padovani also coordinates student wellness. For example, she

has worked with BACCHUS, the student club that advocates responsible drinking, in planning Alcohol Awareness Week, and she has assisted StopAIDS Harper with its World AIDS Day observance. She has also planned other wellness programs for both students and staff such as holiday fire safety, holiday stress and an upcoming colds and flu seminar.

But for now her primary thrust is on developing the Employee Wellness Program. The program offers several perks to employees who choose to join:

- Paid time off for full-time employees to participate in wellness activities,
- Reduced rates at Harper's Fitness Center,
- Incentives and group support for wellness activities, and
- Improved health and well being.

Best of all, the program is free. With release time available for the program, you'll have ample time to attend workshops, walk in the gym, take a class or two—or even try the fitness machines. Remember, wellness is a choice you make for yourself. Join today by calling Char Padovani at extension 6626.



**Char Padovani, left, Harper's wellness coordinator, works out the details for the new Employee Wellness Program with Health Service Director Rosemary Murray and Renee Zellner, PEAR, chair of the Institutional Wellness committee.**

## INSIDER'S VIEW

### Jon DeJonker

Although Jon DeJonker is now enrolled in DePaul University's School for New Learning, he says that he already holds a degree from the School of Hard Knocks! DeJonker began his career in food service—baking, cooking and managing—but was recruited by Standard Oil in 1979 to head up their cleaning firm, a job that charged him with 195 employees who cared for the 2.3 million-square-foot building in Chicago's Loop.

Noting that the best way to advance in his field is by accepting transfers and changing jobs, DeJonker moved seven times over the next five years. But as his children got older he and his wife, Mary Ann, decided to settle into one area, and DeJonker went into business for himself. Two years ago, however, he saw an ad for his present job as Harper's custodial supervisor and interviewed for the position. "I'd always been a contractor," he says, "so this is a different world for me. But I like it. It's great here."

De Jonker and his wife are the parents of three children, all of whom are adopted. Jason, an Evans Scholar at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, was airlifted from Vietnam as a baby. They adopted Katie and Joshua, natural siblings born in Korea, as preschoolers. DeJonker notes that all of his children are good students, and he hopes to tap into these skills as he embarks on a bachelor of arts degree from DePaul.

**Born:** St. Paul, Minnesota

**Education:** Currently enrolled at DePaul University

**Family:** Wife, Mary Ann, and three children, Jason, 18, Katie, 15, and Joshua, 12

**Interests:** My family first, then I like to tinker around the kitchen cooking and baking.

**Best advice my parents gave me:** Find a good woman—which I did!

**If time and money were not a problem:** I would adopt more children.

**I would like to learn:** how to run my computer.

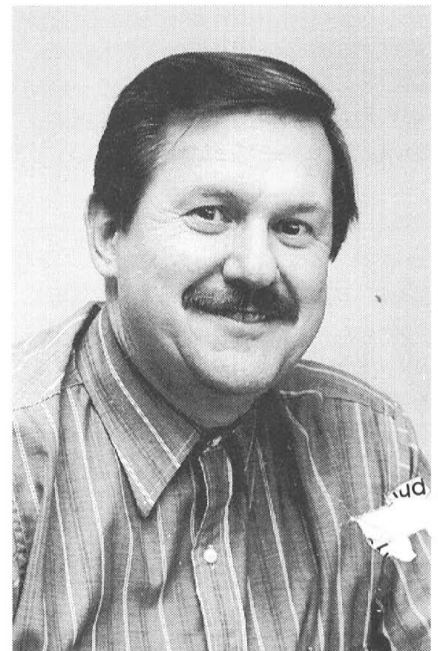
**One thing I've learned in life:** If you want something, you have to work for it.

**I don't care for:** big people with small minds.

**Favorite food:** Anything that is served on a white tablecloth in a fine restaurant.

**Favorite movie:** *Dances with Wolves*

**Favorite book:** *The Pelican Brief* by John Grisham



Jon DeJonker



# Inside Harper



Philosophy assistant professor Colleen Burns receives a congratulatory hug from student Merrilee Burke during the ceremony honoring members of Harper's Coordinated Studies Team. The team won the the Illinois Community College Board's Award for Excellence. Other team members include Rex Burwell, Peggy Kazkaz, Randy Schietzelt and John Clarke.



During Harper's Deaf Awareness Week observance November 1-5, the entire College community was invited to attend informational workshops and lectures on topics designed for and about deaf and hard of hearing individuals. Here adjunct faculty member Edna Johnston drew a standing-room-only crowd for her presentation, "Is Deafness a Disability?" The observance was chaired by CSD specialists Kim Gibson-Harman and Debby Sampson.



## Departmental Developments

**Eugene Magad**, BUS/SS, spent two weeks in China this fall as part of the materials management delegation of the National Ambassador Program: Person to Person program. During his visit, he met with representatives from government, industry and academic institutions... **Barbara Radebaugh** and **Carole Lissy**, BUS/SS, presented "What a Critical Literacy Program Can Do For Your College, Your Faculty and Your Students" at the Northern Illinois Business Teachers' Conference in October...**Martha Simonsen**, LIB ARTS, presented a paper on Odysseus in the plays of Sophocles at the Community College Humanities Association's National Conference held in San Antonio, Texas, in October.

**Jim Finke**, OC/PS, has recently been certified by the Program Management Institute, sponsored by the Learning Resources Network. The Institute provides certification and training in programming and marketing continuing education offerings...**Jaci Carroll** and **Stephanie McLoughlin**, IS/US, and **David McShane**, IS/TS, attended the "Computers on Campus" workshop in Myrtle Beach, SC, last month. The workshop addressed the administrative uses of computers as well as computers in instruction, student support, networking and end-user support. McLoughlin had also attended the "NetWare User Conference in Chicago in September, and Carroll presented "Great Support Staff Retreat: Training for the Future" at the National Council for Staff, Program and Organizational Development in Key Biscayne, FL.

CIS faculty members **Virginia Bender** and **George Gintowt** have been using their fall sabbaticals to work on multimedia projects. Bender is working on a number-base lecture for CIS 100, while Gintowt's project is an overview presentation for CIS 101...Math Professor **Carole Bernett** has been elected president-elect of the Chicago Chapter of the American Statistical Association...**Rosemary Murray**, HLTH SER, presented "Building a Health Centered College Community" at the Illinois Council of Community College Administrators Fall Conference last month...and **Joanne Parke**, ADM OFF, directed the "Living Nativity" production for Our Savior's United Methodist Church in Schaumburg this month.

**Sandra Clark**, LIB ARTS, and the faculty and staff from Harper's fashion design and merchandising program proudly announce that Harper students took top honors in three of eight categories in the Fashion Group of Chicago Design Competition. Winners include Rachel McAlpin, who won a \$3,000 scholarship in the sportswear category; Jenny Weiler, who won the \$1,500 scholarship in the western wear category; and Alexandra Carden, who won the \$3,000 scholarship in the career wear category. Carden has also been selected to compete in the Air France International Young Fashion Designer Competition in Paris this month.

The Harper  
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We welcome **Valerie Benitez**, who joins us as an instructor in the Learning Resources Center.

We send our best wishes to **Salah Falouji**, TM/PS, and his wife, Fanan, on the birth of their son, Oliver Mahdi, and to **Tom Choice**, ASST/VPAA, and his wife, Sue, on the birth of their son, Matthew.

We send our condolences to **Susan Farmer**, LAC, **Kathy McDougald**, ACT SERV, and **Lanita Hartline**, OC/PS, on the deaths of their fathers and to the family of criminal justice adjunct faculty member **Robert O'Connor**.