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## *English Professors Participate in NEH Institutes*

Picture five weeks away from the responsibilities of home with access to wonderful libraries and time to spend. Imagine time to reflect and think about "larger issues" and the innovations one would make in courses taught. Drift to outstanding lectures by classical scholars and the opportunity to exchange ideas with colleagues from colleges and universities across the country. These and other advantages were cited by Julie Fleenor, assistant professor of English, and Martha Simonsen, professor of English, as they took part in two institutes this past summer supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

Fleenor attended her first such institute entitled "Cultural Tools: Realities and Representations of Technology in American Society" at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. The institute was conducted for 24 college instructors from June 5 to July 1 and sponsored by the Community College Humanities Association as well as the NEH. It brought together experts in history and women's studies, philosophy, history of technology, architecture and writing. The program included an exploration of ways in which technology shapes and reflects our culture and boundaries between nature and technology. Fleenor hopes to incorporate ideas from the institute into coordinated studies at Harper.

Simonsen, who also participated in a previous institute, traveled to Honolulu to participate from June 5 to July 8 in "The 1994 South Asian Culture and Civilization Institute." The institute was sponsored by the Asian Studies Development Program of the University of Hawaii and the East-West Center and supported by an NEH grant. The 31 college instructors who participated in the institute explored relationships between the humanities and contemporary issues in South Asia and developed curriculum plans for their courses. The program examined the role of language in Indian culture, the texts of Hindu thought, religious and philosophical traditions in classical art and social and political practices, modern Indian literature, and societal changes through India's encounter with Islam and the West. Simonsen developed content for her non-western literature course and deepened her interest in developing a non-western humanities course.

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## President's Message



During its meeting held at Harper last month, the Illinois Community College Board endorsed the Illinois Articulation Initiative's General Education Core Curriculum and Implementation Plan. The plan is the result of two years of work for faculty members and transfer coordinators at public universities, community colleges and 14 private institutions in Illinois. Their task was to develop a General Education Core Curriculum that would ease the transfer process between state schools.

The process began in September 1992, when a steering committee was formed to coordinate the plan. Then, panels of faculty members from each general education field met to draft a curriculum. Once this was completed, it was submitted to all institutions of higher learning in the state for review and comment. Last winter, the panels reconvened to review the input, revise their recommendations and develop an implementation plan.

The objectives of the plan include the following:

- Students who complete an Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degree that contains the general education core curriculum at a community college will have their general education core requirements satisfied at the Illinois university to which they transfer.
- Students who complete the general education core curriculum at any college or university in Illinois will have their general education requirements met upon transfer to another college or university in the state.
- The acceptable courses identified and described in the general Education Core Curriculum in each of the disciplines will constitute the statewide articulated general education courses, eliminating a need for colleges to articulate these courses with each university individually.
- The General Education Core Curriculum and the list of statewide articulated general courses will be especially beneficial to students who are undecided about either their major or the university to which they might transfer.
- The General Education Core Curriculum and the statewide articulated list of general courses will assist counselors and academic advisors to provide accurate information on course articulation.
- The statewide articulated general education courses will assist colleges in meeting the needs of their transfer students more efficiently.

The core curriculum includes nine semester hours in communications, three to six in math, seven to eight in science, nine in the humanities and nine in social and behavioral sciences. While this curriculum is similar to the Illinois Community College Board's Associate in Arts degree, it will require community colleges to add one humanities course and one social and behavioral science course to their Associate in Science degree requirements. Full statewide implementation is required by summer, 1998.

Involvement of Harper College faculty and transfer coordinators in this process has been significant. In addition, the articulation for students who are transferring to other state institutions—and reverse transfer students (who comprise 14 percent of our full-time student population)—will benefit greatly from this agreement.

## Focus On Psychology Department

"Volunteers who can help an autistic child, students who have become teachers and survey classes developed to suit the needs of a particular curriculum—that's what this department is about," says Mike Ostrowski, chair of the psychology department.

The department works in tandem, or as a complement to, other curricula. One course, Psychology 228, for example, was developed when nursing students requested a course that would cover human growth from conception to death. This allowed the students to take one three-hour psychology class instead of the nine hours that would be required to cover courses in child, adolescent and adult psychology.

"A very unique volunteer program has also been instituted for extra credit," Ostrowski says. Students are required to volunteer in a special education or mental health facility three hours a week for 16 weeks. This has proven to be a motivator and propelled two former Harper students, John Clarke and Linda Campbell, to careers in psychology. (They are now full-time faculty members.) The program benefits both the student and the institution as it provides an opportunity to observe, first-hand, a disorder or problem or to employ a method that is being studied.

A psychology lab recently opened that provides computer assistance for the self-taught aspect of classes. "A student can explore neuropsychology or brain mapping or can play theory games to see how an individual learns," says Ostrowski. "This high-tech tie-in provides us with yet another means of learning."

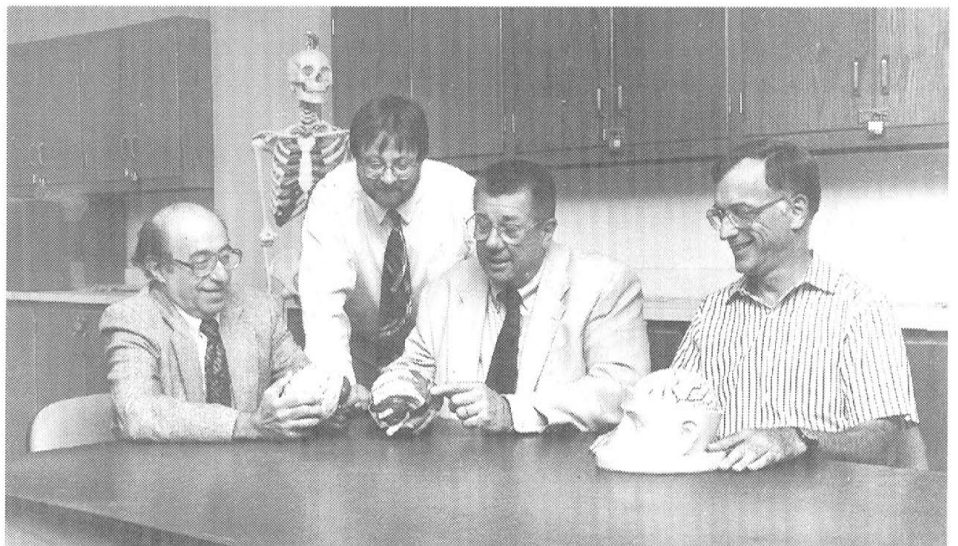
More than 2,000 students are enrolled in psychology classes each semester and there are class offerings for each of them—classes that fill general education requirements, address the needs of a specific curriculum, and encourage personal exploration and growth. "And," Ostrowski adds, "although a certificate program or associate degree is unavailable, the department offers classes that prepare students for numerous careers and provides a full range of preparatory courses for the transfer student.

Six full-time and approximately 18 adjunct faculty members serve the students each semester. Each full-time faculty member offers expertise in a particular subject matter. Ostrowski, for example, develops and teaches classes in abnormal behavior and child development; Sue Korbel is proficient in biology and research; Jim

Roll specializes in learning theory, personality and behavior modification; Linda Campbell has developed a "link course" with the criminal justice program (in adolescent psychology) and handles the mentor program. In addition, John Clarke teaches and specializes in large intro classes (working with as many as 240 students at a time) and is active in the College's interdisciplinary programs, and Dan Cohen handles the honors classes and is the department's "man for all seasons." He has taught every course in the department plus the two psychology courses in the education department (Ed. Psych and Psych of Exceptional Children).

Harper's Psych Department now offers 17 courses—ranking it among the top community colleges in the state. For more information about offerings, call Mike Ostrowski at extension 6435.

—Joellen Freeding



**Harper's psychology department offers courses ranging from introductory level to human development and learning theory. Full-time faculty members include (from left) Dan Cohen, John Clarke, Mike Ostrowski and Jim Roll. Other full-timers include Sue Korbel and Linda Campbell.**

## Insider's View of Paul Sipiera

When Paul Sipiera describes his infant daughter, he could be describing himself. "She's very active," he says. "She never stops." Like daughter, like father. Sipiera, a 19-year veteran of the Harper faculty, has been going strong teaching courses in earth science and astronomy. He is also president of the Planetary Studies Foundation, a not-for-profit organization that he founded in 1989.

The Foundation, which is hoping to relocate from Palatine to Elgin this month, will be housed in the former Elgin Watch Observatory, a building that is included in the National Register of Historic Places and is now owned by Elgin Unit School District 46. The Foundation recently acquired the Du Pont meteorite collection, which had been the largest privately owned meteorite collection in the world. Sipiera worked hard to acquire the collection, which was purchased with contributions and grant money. It had been owned by the late Jim Du Pont, a friend and colleague of Sipiera. After Du Pont's death, Sipiera was called in to catalog the collection, and when it went to bid, he purchased it. "In the world of meteorites," he says, "the Planetary Studies Foundation is now one of the giants."

When he's not on-the-go with these activities, he can be found "relaxing" on his six and one-half acre farm in Galena, Illinois, where he grows apple, pine, white oak, shagbark hickory and maple trees.

**Born:** Chicago

**Education:** B.A.-history and M.S.-earth science, Northern Illinois University; Ph.D. studies in geology, University of Otago, New Zealand; and now working on a second M.S. (in geology) from the University of Otago

**Family:** Wife, Diane, and daughters Andrea, 8, and Paula, 1.

**Interests:** Family, meteorites and my farm in Galena.

**Best advice my parents gave me:** Go as far as you can in life.

**If time and money were not a problem:** I'd buy a planetarium for Harper College!

**I would like to learn:** to speak German fluently.

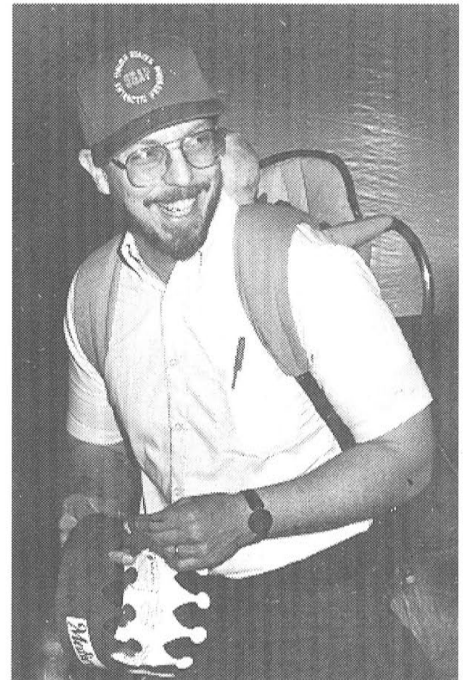
**One thing I've learned in life:** Take care of those people who are good to you.

**I don't care for:** people who misrepresent themselves.

**Favorite food:** Ice cream and chocolate chip cookies

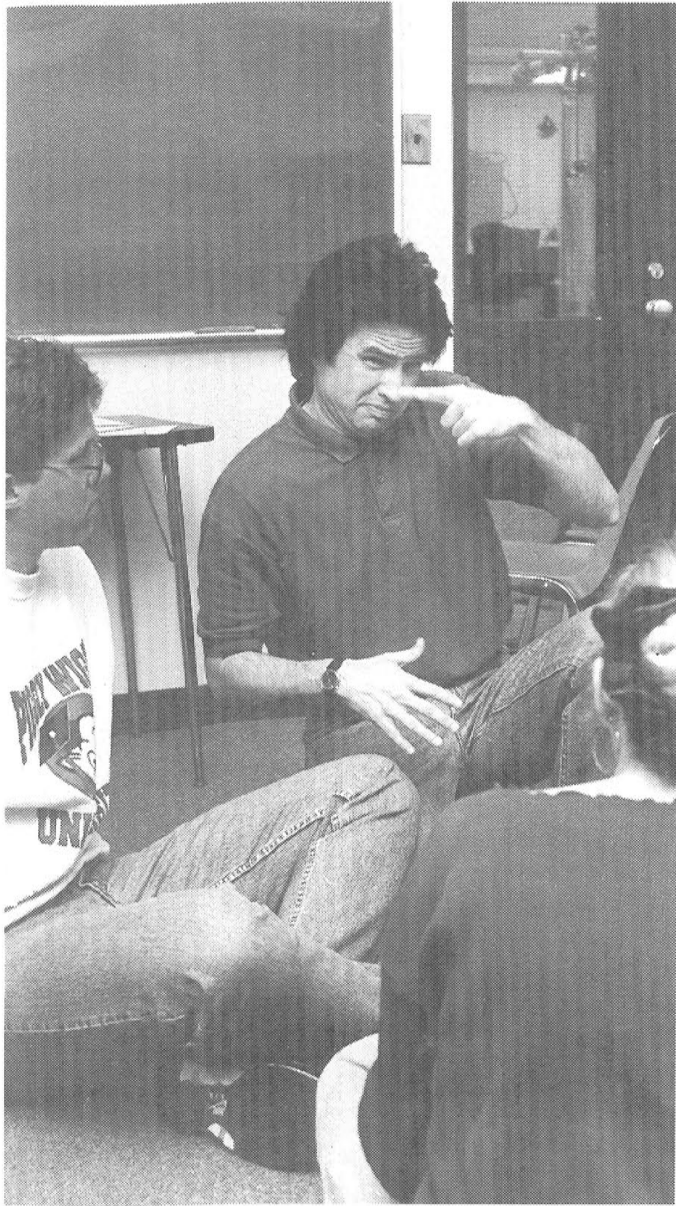
**Favorite movie:** *Field of Dreams*

**Favorite book:** *From Here to Eternity* by James Jones



**Astronomy is a family affair for Paul Sipiera and his infant daughter, Paula. Here they staff the Star Lab, an inflatable planetarium owned by Planetary Studies Foundation.**

## Inside Harper



Bob Paul, AE/LS instructor in Sign Language/Deaf Culture, was one of the featured presenters during Intercultural *Unity Through Diversity* Week held earlier this month. Here he is shown working with students during a class session. October 26-29 is Deaf Awareness Week. The Center for Students with Disabilities is planning a series of events including role reversal activities, panel presentations on the Deaf culture, an American Sign Language story telling contest and lectures. Call the Center at extension 6266 for details.

### Illinois Community College Board Recognizes Harper

The Illinois Community College Board granted "recognition continued" status to Harper College for fiscal year 1994. This status was awarded after a comprehensive evaluation last April.



Harper student Christine Garcia shows children how to use the telescope during activities at the Harper Observatory. Science activities for area youth are planned on campus throughout the fall. *Constellations and the Sky Above* will be held on October 21 at 6:30 pm, followed by *Eclipses of the Sun and the Moon* at 7:50. For details, contact the Office of Community and Program Services at extension 6548. Another children's program, *Bottles, Beakers and Burning Bubbles*, is scheduled through the chemistry department on the same evening. Call extension 6241 for details.

## Departmental Developments

Congratulations go to several members of the Harper faculty and staff who have earned degrees. **Karen Steltman**, LIB SER, earned a bachelor's degree in English from Roosevelt University; **Martin Parker**, adjunct faculty member, BUS/SS, earned a doctorate in clinical psychology from the Adler School of Professional Psychology; and **Michael Nejman**, STU ACT, earned a master of arts degree in multicultural affairs and student services from DePaul. In addition, Nejman's article, "Using the Delphi Technique to Examine the Need for Cocurricular Diversity Training in Post-Secondary Education," was published in the September issue of *PROfile*, a newsletter for professional members of the National Association of Campus Activities.

**Susanne Havlic**, coordinator of the journalism program, has written a paper that will be distributed via on-line computer bulletin board by the Consortium to Disseminate Teaching Innovations. The paper, "Using Group Participation as a Method to Prepare Students for a Test," was written for the Great Teachers Seminar... **Gertrude Lempp-Kerbis**, architectural technology professor, is among 10 prominent Chicago architects featured in the exhibition, *The Chicago Booth Festival*, which runs through February at the Spertus Museum, Chicago... **Kim Ostrowski**, adjunct faculty member, BUS/SS, has had her research on gifted children accepted for presentation at the Illinois School Psychologists Association and the Chicago Psychological Association... and **Shirley Hipwell**, Music, who directs the handbell program on campus, served as one of the U. S. representatives to the International Handbell Symposium held in Australia. She also attended the Handbell Notation Seminar in Alabama this past summer and was elected vice president of In-and-About-Chicago Music Educators for 1994-1995.

New members of the Harper staff include **Melanie Frieberg**, who has been hired as a registration and records clerk, REG OFF; **Suchi Sunder**, clerk/receptionist, Tutoring Center; **Billie Jo Walker**, administrative secretary, VOC/WK DEV; **Amy Wesser**, clerk/receptionist, INF CTR; **Marie Zakes**, food service worker, DIN SER; **Caryn Levington**, associate professor, STU DEV; **Susan Lamm** and **Mark Hawkins**, custodians, PHY PLT; **Anthony Murray**, warehouse/driver, BUS SER/Finance; and **Sue Walton**, career specialist, WOM PRG.

Our congratulations go to **Allison Passaglia**, PERSNL, and her husband, Mike, on the birth of their daughter, Alexa Lea; to **Amy Hauenstein**, ADM OUT, and her husband, Erich, on the birth of their daughter, Kassandra Irene; to **Jason Tiggs**, Mail Ctr, and his wife, Jaynee, on the birth of their son, Jason II; and to **Maribeth Burke**, BUS/SS, and her husband, Tom, on the birth of their daughter, Alyssa Ann.

We send our condolences to **Larry Knight**, TM/PS, on the death of his mother and to **Mercedes McGowen**, TM/PS, on the death of her father.

## The Harper **insider**

**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 send contributions to PUB or call extension 6125.**

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## NEH Grants

(continued from page 1)

Both full-time faculty members received a stipend of \$1,000 as well as an allowance toward lodging, meals and travel expenses. They applied for the grant program before the March 1, 1994, deadline and were notified of their acceptance the following month. Both took the risk to apply and participate in "a wonderful program" of educational adventure.

—Pat Mulcrone