

The

insider

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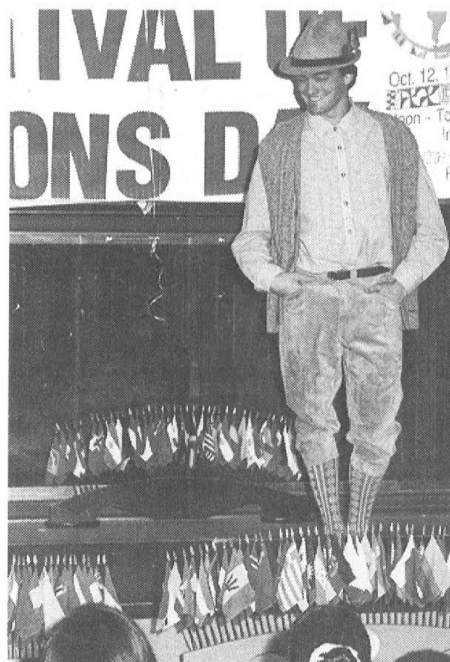
A Publication for Employees of William Rainey Harper College
 Volume 9, Number 9
 November, 1994

Harper Celebrates Diversity

Members of the Harper community joined with faculty, staff and students to produce an international fashion show during Unity Through Diversity Week held October 10-14. Here Silvia Chen, a native of Taiwan, models fashions from her homeland...



...while student Reto Frei demonstrates the lederhosen worn in his native Switzerland. More than 200 people attended the fashion show.



Several dozen ceremonial masks from sub-Saharan Africa were on display during the week. Here students browse through Dan John's collection of masks once used for initiation rites, tribal rituals, coming-of-age celebrations and for ancestor worship and fertility ceremonies.



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President's Message

Last month I attended a three-day workshop, *Metropolitan Assembly on Urban Problems: Linking Research to Action*, sponsored by the Center for Urban Affairs and Policy Research at Northwestern University. The workshop focused on relationships between the suburbs and the city—particularly in terms of employment, education, welfare, housing, crime and government. Prior to arriving, participants were asked to read six papers written by researchers at major universities across the country. We then met with them to discuss our reactions and learn more about these complex problems. I'd like to share with you some of what I learned.

How does the fiscal health of Chicago impact the suburbs?

As jobs and middle-income residents move out of the city, the tax base is diminished. However, federal and state governments continue to mandate public services (transportation, for example) that fewer residents are expected to pay for—and taxes must be raised to finance them. And, as taxes increase, more city residents migrate to the suburbs. Until suburban residents understand that it is in their best interest to respond to the city's fiscal problems—by directing more tax dollars in that direction—this problem will continue.

Where are the jobs of the future?

For the past 30 years, jobs have been moving from the city to the suburbs, a trend that is expected to continue. However, this has caused a mismatch between available workers and available jobs. To address this mismatch, we must create incentives

that will keep employers within the city, open up the housing market for minorities in the suburbs and design transportation that will facilitate reverse commutes for the workforce.

What do we need to know about welfare reform and employment?

Greg Duncan of the University of Michigan presented interesting statistics on this issue. He noted that most welfare recipients get and keep jobs without specific job training and that those who benefit the most from job training programs are considered "harder to employ." In addition, he found that even though many of these programs are cost effective, participants often have trouble finding jobs after completing the programs. Similarly, he notes that welfare recipients who receive training and find permanent positions earn incomes at or near poverty level.

What else have we learned about education?

Researchers looking into school-to-work transitions have noted three approaches to improving these transitions. The first, school-based reform, integrates academic and vocational skills. While researchers report encouraging results from this style of training, long-term outcomes are unknown. The second transition, employer-based reforms, integrates school with early on-the-job training. Although this, too, has had good results, work experiences are inconsistent, and employers do not accept all work experience as valuable. To make this training more efficient, it would need to be coupled with certification testing. The third school-to-work

transition, called linkage reforms, began in Japan. With this system, employers have long-term hiring relationships with certain high schools. Employers rely on dependable references from teachers; teachers have increased authority over work-bound students; and students have a reason to excel in school.

How can we share this information with the community?

To begin with, I would like to share this information with interested faculty and staff members. Please call Patty Roberts in the Community Relations office (extension 6279) for copies of the six research papers. In the future—probably next fall—I would like to see a series of forums established, utilizing the expertise of faculty, staff and students to present research and facilitate discussions with the Harper community. The city and the suburbs are interwoven, and we must learn more about their interrelationships.



Focus On the Travel Academy

Travel/hospitality is recognized as being the world's fastest growing industry. As a result, the demand for travel agents is increasing. To respond to this growth, Harper introduced its travel program in 1989. The program has grown from seven students its first year to 125 students—ranging in age from 18 to 78—today.

The Travel Academy operates within the Business and Social Science division. It offers a 16-week daytime program or a 32-week night program, and graduates earn a certificate that prepares them for entry level positions in the travel industry.

Curriculum—which includes domestic and international air travel, tours/land arrangements, cruises and geography—constantly evolves to keep pace with the demands of the marketplace. The program includes classroom study, comprehensive instruction in the Apollo computer system and a four-week internship at a local travel agency.

"While many agencies seek interns, we are committed to providing the best training for our students," says Luanne Kristiansen, the Academy's program leader. She adds that through the years, the Academy has developed relationships with agencies that are eager to work with and train Harper students.

"And best of all," Kristiansen notes, "our job placement rate is very impressive. Almost everyone gets a job!" The Academy also offers coursework in meeting planning, with graduates finding work at convention and meet-

ing planning companies, in hotels or with large corporations.

"We also plan to develop more continuing education classes geared toward graduates who want additional training," Kristiansen says, adding that the sophisticated Apollo computer system requires agents to update periodically.

Harper's Travel Academy faculty includes practitioners in the travel

industry, all of whom have at least 10 years' experience. In addition to Kristiansen, the faculty includes Janet Berns, Al Fleming, Sue Mendes, Kathy Barrett, Carolyn Roberts, Barb Hitzeroth and John Werner.

For more information about the program, call Luanne Kristiansen at the Northeast Center, 537-8660.

(Joellen Freeding contributed to this article.)



Students enrolled in Harper's Travel Academy find entry-level positions in the travel industry. Here adjunct faculty members Al Fleming, standing left, and Janet Berns provide instruction in the sophisticated Apollo computer system to students enrolled in the program.

Insider's View of Christa Kraft

Do you know the best apple orchard in the northwest suburbs? Today's wind velocity on Lake Michigan? Where to catch the shuttle* between Building A and Building J? These are some of the more unusual questions that Christa Kraft has been asked during her 10 years staffing the Information Center in Building A.

"My job is to find answers for people," Kraft says. "I like the job because it offers variety and plenty of people contact. While I do answer strange questions from time to time, most of the information I share involves academic and College-related issues." She adds that she doesn't counsel students or community members; instead, she refers them to appropriate sources.

The job requires that she be resourceful—a quality that comes easily to Kraft, who left her homeland at the age of 12. Sponsored by a Canadian church, her family settled in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and later headed south to Minneapolis. She returned to Germany as a young woman, working and traveling throughout Europe. "I've had a rich life," Kraft says. "I've traveled and met so many interesting people; that has been a real education for me!"

Although she has been in the United States for many years, Kraft keeps close ties to her German roots. She is bilingual and reads books (biographies and autobiographies) published in her native language and sent to her by family members. In 1991, she and her husband—who is also German-born (although they met in the United States)—returned to the former East Germany to visit their birthplaces.



Students and community members look to Christa Kraft, right, for information on campus events, academics and other College-related issues.

Kraft enjoys the outdoors, and her home in Crystal Lake backs up to a forest preserve where she skis when the weather permits. She also enjoys boating and says she misses the lakes of Minnesota.

Place of Birth: Dresden, Germany

Family: Husband, Horst; daughters, Christina, 27, and Stephanie, 25; son-in-law, Ron; and a Lhasa apso, Nikki

Interests: cross country skiing, downhill skiing, symphony, the outdoors, time with my family and friends

Best advice my parents gave me: Be yourself!

If time and money were not a problem: I'd spend more time at my brother's place on Vancouver Island, Canada.

I would like to learn: Spanish.

One thing I've learned in life: Keep an open mind.

I don't like it when: people don't mean what they say.

Favorite food: good Italian!

Last movie seen: *The Lion King*

Last book read: *Audrey Hepburn: A Biography* by Warren G. Harris

*You're right. There isn't one...

Inside Harper



Harper's Child Learning Center celebrated Halloween in style as candy-coated teacher Leslie Burns discussed an open-ended holiday art activity with her class.



Thirteen managers and administrators from a production plant in Volgodonsk, Russia, have been on campus this month for extensive training in the English language and American culture. Members of the group, above, who are participating in the Special American Business Internship Program, have been living in area homes. From here, they travel to industrial assignments throughout the Midwest.



Here, Olga and Sergey Aksenenko spend a day in Chicago, sightseeing in the Loop and along the Magnificent Mile.

A Word from the Board...

On Wednesday, September 14, in a meeting with the College executive administrators, we, the Board of Trustees, reviewed and discussed various Teaching and Learning programs and initiatives. Among those areas discussed were student outcomes, great teachers, critical literacy, the North Central accreditation visit, distance learning, program review, multimedia, learning communities, NSF grants, hiring and recruitment of faculty replacing retiring faculty and a host of other faculty-focused and led programs.

We commend and congratulate each faculty and staff member who is engaged in creating and maintaining a quality educational environment at Harper College. We take pride in the activities shared with us and appreciate the progress being made toward completing the goals of the College. We thank and recognize each of you for your individual contributions.

Departmental Developments

Congratulations are in order for Professor **Sharon Alter**, history and political science, who has been selected for inclusion in the 1994 third edition of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers: The Best Teachers in American Selected by the Best Students*. Alter was nominated by the 1993 James J. McGrath Humanities Scholarship winner. And Alter's awards go on! She was also awarded one of four \$500 scholarships by the Northern Illinois Learning Resources Cooperative (NILRC) to attend the Telelearning 1994 Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, in September. In addition, the paper that she wrote for the Great Teachers' Seminar—"U.S. Government and Politics Field Study"—will be distributed via on-line bulletin board by the Consortium to Disseminate Teaching Innovations.

Susan L. Carlson, CE Coordinator-LI B ARTS, attended the International Workforce 2000 Conference in Lahti, Finland, this past summer, where she facilitated discussion groups for Finnish educators. She also met with the faculty at the Russian Institute of Adult and Continuing Education in St. Petersburg and the rector at Tartu University in Estonia...and **Martha Simonsen**, LIB ARTS, has had her article, "Fame and Infamy: Sophocles' Odysseus in *Ajax* and *Philoctetes*" published in the spring issue of *Community College Humanities Review*.

We welcome the newest members of the Harper staff. **Susan Wolf** joins the OC/PS staff as a weekend program assistant; **Beth Bortoletti** will work as an interpreter for CSD; **Debra Penny** joins the staff of the LRC as a library assistant II; **Marlene Resner** will serve as a secretary in LS/HS; and **Susan Borchek** has been hired as a posting clerk for STU ACT. **Joanne Parke**, OC/PS, has been promoted to program assistant, and **Steve Lollino**, LRC, has been promoted to media technician II. **Jeanne Pankanin**, director of Student Activities, has been awarded a developmental leave for the remainder of the fall semester. **Michael Nejman** will serve as the acting director of Student Activities during her leave.

We send our congratulations to **Chris Kranz**, CAR/PER DEV, and his wife, Sharon, on the birth of their son, Zachary Taylor; to **Barbi Bakel**, TM/PS, and her husband, Allan, on the birth of their daughter, Rose Ellen; to **Patrice Wahl**, WHP, and her husband, Michael, on the birth of their daughter, Katherine Tavish Wahl; and to **Carole Bernett**, TM/PS, and her husband **Larry Bernett**, adjunct faculty, BUS/SS, on the birth of their granddaughter, Amy Claire Zasadzinski. We send our condolences to **Chris Kranz** on the death of his mother; to **Gerri Goncher**, ASST/VPAA, on the death of her father-in-law; and to **Stefan Adam**, PHOTO LAB, on the death of his grandmother.

We also send our condolences to the family of **Eugenia Chapman**. As a state representative, Chapman sponsored the bill that created the Illinois community college system and paved the way for the founding of Harper College. She also served on the Women's Program advisory board. The Board of Trustees presented her family with a resolution honoring her contributions and donated an oak tree to be planted in the Silver Anniversary Grove that memorializes her longtime service to the College. At the October board meeting, her husband, Gerald, presented to the College the framed copy of the community college bill that was Eugenia Chapman's working copy throughout the legislative process.

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 708/925-6125.

Editor: Ann Goldberg
Designer: Mike Knudsen
Photographer: John Callahan
Printed by the
Harper Print Shop under the
direction of Peter Gart

1200 West Algonquin Road
Palatine, Illinois 60067-7398

Retirees Corner

Sharrie Hildebrandt, former coordinator of Harper's Legal Technology program, was presented with an honorary emeritus membership during the annual meeting of the American Association for Paralegal Education held in San Francisco last month. A founding member and past president of the organization, Hildebrandt has continued to be active since her retirement from Harper. She is now conveying teaching and learning strategies to paralegal educators through a column in the *Educator*, the AAFPE's quarterly newsletter.

The College will also honor retirees on Monday, December 5, at 1:30 pm in the fireplace area of Building A. Those being honored include **Edna Goldberg**, TM/PS; **Kay Kearns**, ADM OFF; **Bridget Kurtz**, FD SERV; **Augie Melchert**, LIB ARTS; **Gerry Schuenke**, STU DEV; **Ann Sophie**, LRC; **Joe Trevino**, PHY PLT; and **Bob Zilkowski**, BUS/SS. Join the celebration!