

The

# Insider

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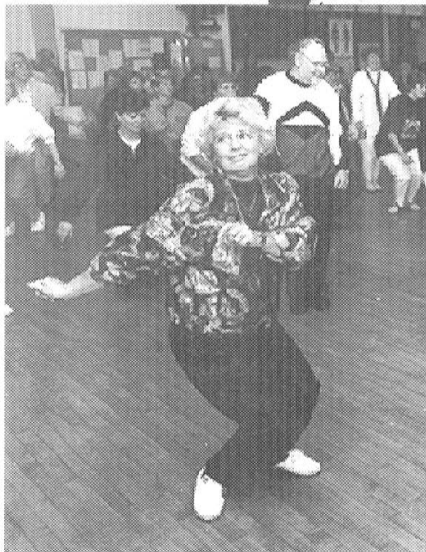
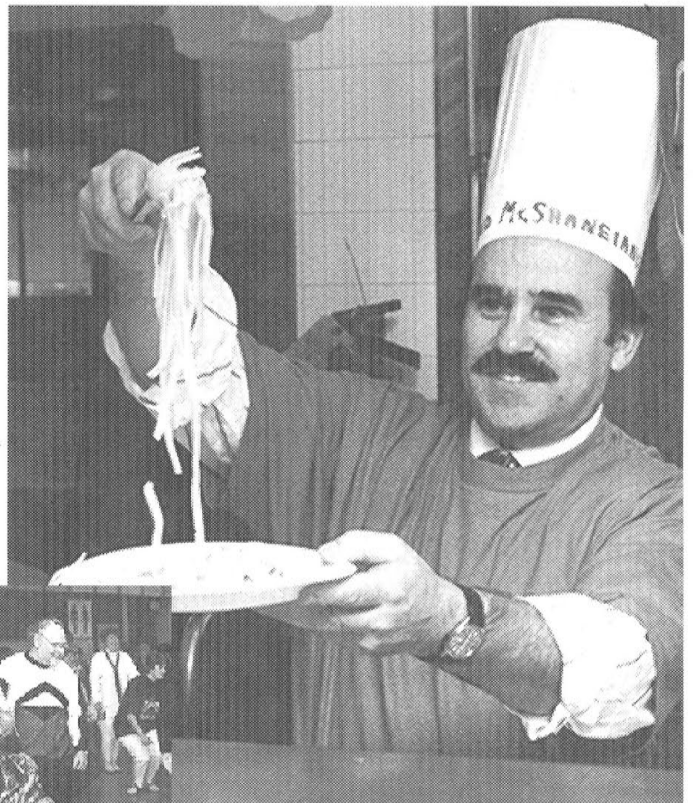
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**During All Employee Day festivities last month, Dave McShane, IS, dished up some lunch fixin's...**



**...while Dawn Spannraft, LIB ARTS-CE, joined other members of the Harper staff for a little Boot Scootin'. The day's activities included keynote speaker Jenna Eisenberg, who spoke on living each day with passion; workshops on computer technology, health and financial strategies; staff recognition; magic; and line dancing.**

## President's Message

Minority success in higher education — Not!

African-Americans and Hispanics are not finding their way through higher education to complete the baccalaureate degree at anywhere near the numbers that they are represented in the U. S. population. Many educators, including me, are alarmed by the rate at which these ethnic groups drop from class rosters even before they achieve sophomore or junior standing. Although a number of special programs have been initiated to improve this success rate, this project or that enhancement have not made any apparent change in these students' completion rates.

To address this issue, the Illinois Board of Higher Education recently adopted a report from the "Committee to Study Affordability" that includes a number of recommendations. Some of these may provide avenues to success for these minority groups, but I doubt it. In fact, I believe the report will work to treat these groups unfavorably! Of course, I generalize in these references. There are African-American and Hispanic students who are succeeding now and who will succeed within the framework of the recommendations to which I refer. But I foresee some significant problems in these recommendations for those requiring economic and educational assistance.

Let me cite an example or two. Two recommendations were made that are designed to enhance academic preparation and progress. The report states: (1) Colleges and universities should provide opportunities for students to accelerate degree completion, publicize these opportunities

and facilitate the efforts of students who seek to take advantage of them. Colleges and universities should establish programs that permit students to complete a baccalaureate program in fewer than four years, and (2) College and university efforts to accelerate degree completion should address the needs of African-American and Hispanic, adult and place-bound students, and any other student groups that historically have taken longer to complete their undergraduate degrees. Colleges and universities should also facilitate the academic programs of students enrolled in remedial programs and cooperatively develop programs that enable students to transfer to a four-year institution.

These recommendations are certainly praiseworthy. In fact, Harper has been at the forefront of community colleges attempting to facilitate the academic progress of students in remedial programs. We work diligently to provide smooth transfer opportunities to the colleges and universities our students choose for their baccalaureate programs. However, if we endorse accelerated degree programs for most of our African-American and Hispanic students, we may threaten them. Why? Because many must work to support themselves and to provide funds for the tuition, fees, books and transportation that are required for them to take one or two courses per semester. The affordability study does not adequately address the financial aid requirements of these students. To me, this is a critical link to accelerating progress and to providing access to the eventual completion of baccalaureate degrees for this group of students.

The recommendations regarding the Monetary Award Program (MAP) for Illinois students are, by all appearances, also commendable. They encourage distribution of financial aid on the basis of financial need of students, they emphasize strategies that uniquely address minority and low income students, and they simplify the application and need evaluation processes. However, they fail to recommend action (other than further study) that would provide monetary award assistance to students enrolled less than half time at our institutions.

Of all public higher education providers in Illinois, community colleges enroll the highest percentage of minority students and the highest percentage of students who have high economic need. Unfortunately, since MAP financial need is calculated based upon "expected family contribution" and the differential between that and tuition and fee costs for students enrolled at least half time at colleges and universities, most of these state MAP dollars are going to university and independent (private) college students. Students with less than half-time course loads are finding that financial aid at the federal level is being reduced and that they have no access to MAP financial aid. As a result, they are reluctant to burden themselves with loans—and they discontinue their education.

As education providers, we need to rethink the way we structure the financial aid system. Until we address this issue, there will be limited, if any, improvement in the success rates of minority students.

*Paul N. Thompson*

## Focus On the Dietetic Technician Program

"I've always been interested in nutrition, staying healthy and keeping fit," says Julie Robinson, a 1992 graduate of Harper's dietetic technician career program. Before enrolling in the program, she had been in sales. "While the money was good," she explains, "it wasn't for me. My heart wasn't in it. So I decided to go back to school and train to do something I really enjoy."

She enrolled in Harper's Dietetic Technician Program in the fall of 1990, and today she works full time at Bethany Terrace, a long-term care center in Morton Grove.

Robinson begins working with each resident during the admission process. She assesses his or her diet and alters it to meet the doctor's recommendations. For example, some residents may need food that is nutritionally altered. In this situation, Robinson develops a diet that is low in sodium or cholesterol or that limits calorie intake from fats or proteins. Some residents, on the other hand, require meals that are mechanically altered—pureed or soft, for example—so that food is easier to chew and swallow.

In addition to jobs such as Robinson's, other positions are also opening up in the nutrition field.

"We're seeing a greater diversity in the kinds of jobs our students accept," says Jane Allendorph, program coordinator. "In addition to long-term care facilities, they have accepted jobs in hospitals, community feeding programs and in the food



**Dietetic Technicians are trained to teach the public how to plan balanced meals and determine food portion sizes. Here program coordinator Jane Allendorph uses food models to discuss the technique with program secretary Mary Lett.**

industry, working under the supervision of a registered dietitian." She adds that dietetic technicians perform assessments, counsel clients on proper diet and plan menus. "Some," she says, "have even developed and presented programs to park districts and community groups."

In addition to the two-year career program, courses are also designed for students who want general nutritional information. "There's so much misinformation out there," Allendorph explains. "Consumers are confused because studies often contradict one another." She adds that the College's Basic Nutrition course (DIT 101) clarifies these issues, and that enrollment in the course has grown significantly over the past few years.

As today's consumers are demanding more information, the Dietetic Tech program is responding in other ways as well. In addition to the course offerings, for example, the program's students and staff also participate in health fairs and prepare displays (on various nutrition topics) that are set up in the College cafeteria. Take advantage of these services! Allendorph encourages anyone who wants information—or who has a suggestion for a display—to call her. She can be reached at extension 6537.

## Insider's View of Roger Mussell

Meet Roger Mussell, the member of the College's current faculty with the most seniority.\* During his tenure on campus, Mussell has always balanced hard work with good times. In fact, even his first interview at the College combined the two.

"My first interview was scheduled on January 28, 1967, one day after the big snow storm," he says. Twenty-three inches of snow had fallen within 24 hours, but that didn't faze Mussell! He considered it an adventure—and eagerly trudged through the elements, was interviewed, hired and officially joined the faculty the following June.

At the time he was hired, Mussell had completed three years of teaching in a technical school in Wisconsin and was participating in a National Science Foundation curriculum study at the University of Illinois. He put these skills to use for Harper immediately, spending the summer designing the new College's electronics technology program. He began teaching that fall, and now, 27 years later, Mussell continues to teach and develop curriculum.

"I've become an expert on outcomes assessment," he says, adding that he now helps other faculty members develop course outlines. He has also served on Harper's faculty senate for 14 years—holding the offices of president, vice president and secretary.

But camaraderie and good times are important to Mussell, and last month he joined other members of the ELT family—faculty, staff and students—for its annual "Brinner" (a breakfast-dinner). In the past the group has

sponsored pig roasts and has even done some swimming and skating on the Harper lake. "We're the reason the *No Swimming* and *No Skating* signs are now posted out there!" he admits.

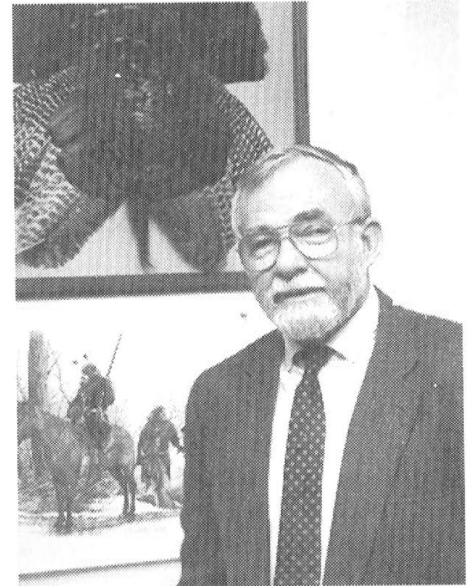
When not on campus, Mussell spends time fishing and hunting. While he fishes for "anything that bites," he says he's a bit more particular about hunting. "I usually hunt for turkey and pheasant," he explains. "It's like therapy. You spend a lot of time sitting and waiting. It's quiet—and a great change of pace." In addition, he teaches a fitness class at the Twinbrook YMCA in Schaumburg Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 6:30 am.

"Stop by for a visit!" he suggests.

**Place of birth:** St. Paul, Minnesota

**Education:** B.S. and M.S. Industrial Education, University of Wisconsin, Stout; Ph.D.- Education, The Ohio State University; Certificate of Teaching Engineering Technology (Electronics Option) University of Illinois, Urbana

**Family:** Wife, Celine, a medical technologist and supervisor of hematology at Alexian Brothers Hospital; sons, Todd, an engineer with Seaman in Bristol, Tennessee; Bob, in airframe and power maintenance for United Express in South Bend, Indiana; and Tom, a master's candidate in technology education at the University of Wisconsin-Stout (who is now student teaching at William Fremd High School and has taught courses at Harper in building construction).



**Interests:** Physical fitness, hunting and fishing

**Best advice my parents gave me:** Plan, organize and then execute.

**If time and money were not a problem:** I'd play at work and work at play.

**I would like to learn:** Spanish and more about the inner workings of computers and microprocessors.

**One thing I've learned in life:** Smile and enjoy every day.

**Favorite food:** all desserts

**Favorite movie:** *Star Trek* (both the movies and TV shows) and *Star Trek: The Next Generation*

**Book I'm currently reading:** *The Trust Factor* by John O. Whitney

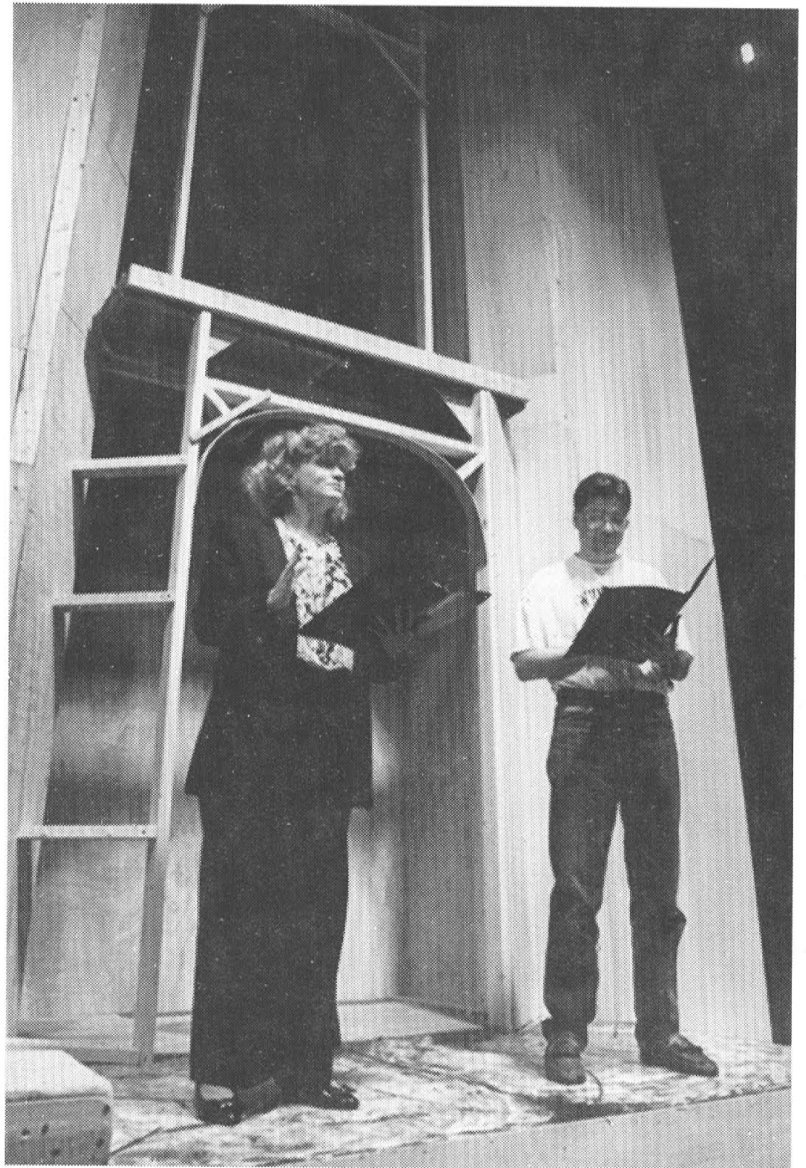
\*Mussell's seniority is closely contested. He started at Harper on June 19, 1967. Math professor Harold Cunningham began the following day!

## Inside Harper



Speech/communication professor John Muchmore presented "The Half Clad Ghost" and "Four Black Cats and More" during *An Evening of Ghost Stories Under the Harvest Moon*. The sold-out performance was held in the College's new Drama Lab.

Shakespeare's *A Comedy of Errors* was presented on campus last month. Here Dromio (student Tim Griffin) begs for mercy from Adriana (Shelly Scoville).



Sheila Quirk, WK DEV, and her husband, John, rehearse before their performance of "Mr. Tilly's Seance" by E. F. Benson. The humorous ghost story, set in the early 1900s, tells of a man who regularly attends seances. One night he is killed and reappears at a seance only to discover that his medium is a scam artist. In their rendition, Sheila portrayed the medium, while John took on the role of Mr. Tilly.

## Departmental Developments

Several Harper volunteers were honored during the American Heart Association's Volunteer Appreciation Dinner held last month. Those honored include **Sherilyn Sorem**, WHP, Heart Talk committee chair; **Paul Thompson**, PR/BD, Heart Walk committee chair; and trustee **Sarah Born**, networking and development.

New employees this month include **Aretha Williams**, clerk/typist, SFA; **Marla Daley**, lab assistant, biology/park management, LS/HS; **Patricia Boncimino**, operations/catering assistant, DIN SER; **Katherine Setser**, senior clerk-CE registration, ADM OFF; **Janis Sneed**, receptionist, ADM OFF; and **Wayne Sopher** and **Denice Slaton**, custodians, PHY PLT.

**Edward Gallagher**, IS, has been promoted to advanced technology specialist, and reclassifications have been granted to **Judy Dincher**, LS/HS, whose new title is Director of Nursing and Related Programs and to **Christine Vlahakis**, AE/LS, whose new title is Adult Education and Nonnative Literacy Coordinator.

We send our congratulations to **Bob Brown**, IS/TS, and his wife, Sandy, on the birth of their son, Joshua Peter.

We send our best wishes to **Elaine Furlin**, DIN SER, who will retire later this month. She was honored during a reception held on December 5.

We send our condolences to the family of **Bridget V. Kurtz**, DIN SER.



**William T. Ylvisaker, right, former head of Gould, Inc., talks with reporters during the November 3 dedication of the Picasso sculpture, "The Bather," which he donated to the College last summer. He is joined here by Educational Foundation board member John Braasch of Northern Trust Bank, whose company sponsored the reception following the dedication.**

## The Harper **in**sider

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