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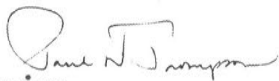


Spring construction starts

Greg D'Allessandro spotted a robin building her nest on the tire of a Harper salt spreader truck. She seems certain that the truck is parked for the season and spring has finally arrived.

President's Message

For the past few months this column has presented the views of various members of Harper's Executive Council. Continuing with that theme this month is a message from Bill Howard, Dean of Strategic Planning.



A Focus on Planning

As Harper prepares for its future, planning becomes an important element of the institution. Planning is not the function of one office at the College. It is a tool to be used in all areas. Our challenge in the next two years will be the linking of unit (e.g. department, office) and system (e.g. space, technology, budgeting) planning as it is driven by an educational plan of programs and services. All of these activities must focus on our primary mission of the College: teaching and learning.

Five current planning activities need to be highlighted: Unit Planning, Technology Planning, NCA Planning, Space Planning and College Priorities.

Unit Planning

All of the departments of the College are being asked to develop a five-year plan. These plans contain a brief assessment of the department, establish five-year goals and map out specific strategies for implementation of the goals. Our technology, budgeting, space and other system planning should be guided by the unit plans.

Technology Planning

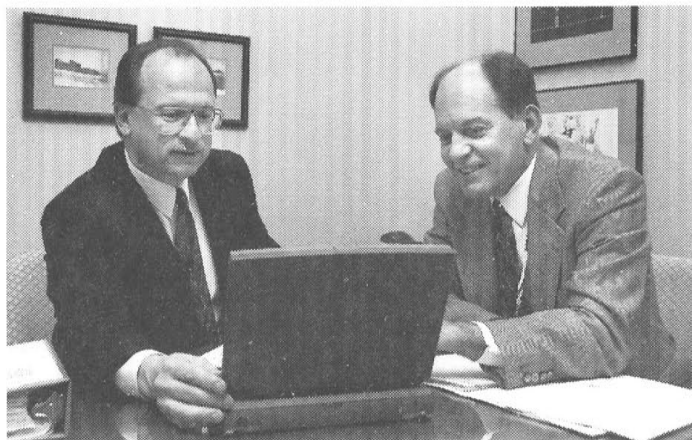
There is a Board approved plan that is addressing the needs of technology. Participation from all areas of the College has provided us with an opportunity to advance in this critical area.

NCA Study

A great deal of productive energy is being placed in our accreditation study. It is serving as an evaluation of the College. The recommendations and outcomes of this study will be very important input into our planning process.

Space Planning

As Harper prepares for its future, space planning is a necessary key. The current master plan, which was last revised in 1989, is becoming obsolete because of advancements in technology, program development, new teaching and learning methods, institutional requirements and simply because many buildings are old and require remodeling.



Under the existing plan Buildings F, L and S have been built, and construction of Building V and the I Lab is underway. If state funding is received construction of Building W will begin in the summer of 1997.

Now is a good time for the College to look ahead another five to seven years. Recently Harper College hired Legat Architects to work with the College in preparing a space study that will result in development of a new master plan. This study, begun on May 1, will continue through early spring 1997. It involves looking at the current use, quality and the suitability of space to meet the future needs of teaching and learning. With input from all areas of the College, this planning process will reveal new trends impacting the College and its services.

A space planning team has been organized, made up of representatives from administrative areas and a faculty liaison will be secure input from all parts of the College, assess campus needs and review the final draft of the plan. Your input into this planning process is welcome.

College Priorities

Finally, we are collaborating to identify key priorities of the College. Recently a workshop was held with representatives of all areas of the College to discuss priorities. This process will continue into the fall. Since we are examining the current allocation of resources of the College, establishing priorities is critical.

I strongly believe in the future of Harper, and I hope that you, Harper's staff and faculty, share my optimism as we move toward the year 2000. As Thoreau once said, "If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put foundations under them."

Insider's View of Al Olsen

"I've always found math relatively easy," says mathematics instructor Al Olsen. In fact, he knew he was going to be a math teacher by the time he was a junior in high school. "Of all the classes I had taken, I was most comfortable with math." Olsen began teaching mathematics in the inner city area of Milwaukee and later in McHenry, for a total of 13 years.

But before Olsen had discovered mathematics, he discovered film. As an eight-year old boy he began collecting motion pictures on film, and continues to do so today. Although he has moved several times, the lower level of each house is always converted into a movie theatre.

So, while teaching high school in McHenry, and collecting film as a hobby, Olsen and his wife opened up a video rental store. It was very successful and a year later they opened a second store. To focus on this busy enterprise Olsen quit teaching. "The stores did gangbusters for seven years, but we saw the big chains coming in, and decided to sell the stores while they were still profitable."

After a few months off, the Olsens bought a Subway franchise in the Milwaukee area. Unfortunately, this was not as lucrative as their past business venture, so Olsen returned to teaching.

"I use this experience often. I think it's important that all people who teach experience what the working life is about. And believe me there's a big, big difference. Your efficiency level must increase ten-fold. Being self-employed you find out how decisions must be made—not in days and weeks, but hours and minutes." Olsen believes he was a good teacher those first 13 years, but he also believes his outside interests have made him an even better teacher now. "It was a very, very good experience, and it really opened my eyes. I incorporate what I did in my business into this business of teaching math."

Olsen now teaches everything from Algebra 060 to Calc III. He is happy to have the opportunity to teach calculus, because it is such a unique type of math. He also enjoys teaching lower level courses "because the students come from all different directions and are going in all different directions. There is great satisfaction in helping a student who is struggling to figure out how to solve a problem."

Born: Rock Rapids, Iowa

Family: married to Julianne, two sons, Joe and Earl (deceased), and three grandchildren

Education: BA and MA at University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls

Interests: film, videos, model railroads, travel

Best advice my parents gave me: All work is honorable.

If time and money were not a problem: I would travel extensively.

I don't care for: people with sour attitudes

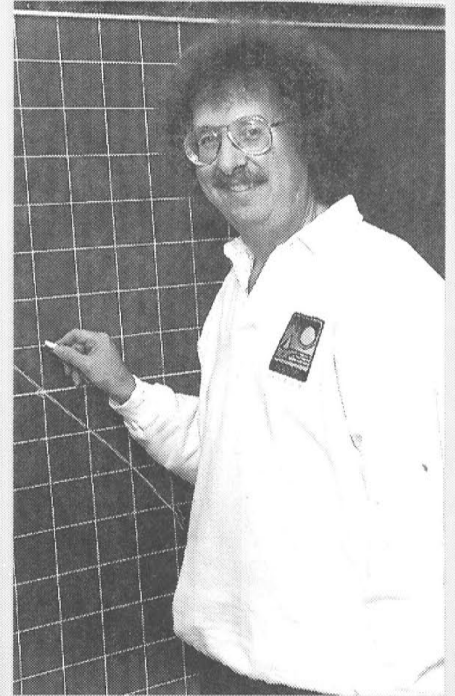
I would like to learn: more about travel destinations

One thing I've learned in life: Be efficient—get things done immediately

Favorite food: steak

Favorite movie: Currently *Birdcage* and *The Usual Suspects*

Book I'm currently reading: *A Fortune at Your Feet* by A. D. Kessler



Take Your Daughter to Work Day



Daughters and granddaughters

of Harper employees and girls from Willow Bend School in Rolling Meadows visited the campus on April 25. Activities included a talk by Laurie Gunning about *True Colors* and learning styles. Deb Sampson and her dog Bo gave them insight on what it's like to be a member of the Deaf culture. They visited Dave Macaulay in the chemistry lab, where he taught them the chemical combination needed to create polymers (rubber, silly putty and slime). Mark Steffen manipulated photos images on a computer and Peter Gart demonstrated how a publication is printed. Mary Jo Willis gave them a behind the scenes look at the Black Box Theatre area. When asked to assess the day, comments included, "chemistry...very cool...this is the best school...I liked Mrs. Sampson's dog." When asked what they'd change they suggested, "more elevators."

Focus on Community Relations

It's been said that communications is complex and dynamic, both a science and an art. If that's true, then Amy Hauenstein and Sylvia Kingsley are Harper's own Einstein/Michelangelo combination.

Hauenstein became Manager of Community Relations in February after serving as Coordinator of Admissions Outreach for six years. Kingsley has been Community Relations Assistant since the department was established five years ago. Community Relations has three areas of focus: media, community and legislative. Together, Hauenstein and Kingsley are responsible for spreading the official word to those areas.

Their tasks are very interactive. They don't just send information out—they also filter it through the President and the rest of the College and have an ongoing interchange of ideas with many sources.

Media Relations

Using information that she receives from faculty and staff about their programs and accomplishments, Kingsley spends much of her time preparing press releases. A news hook is essential when trying to get publicity. "Reporters are often too busy to think of the angle. We try to give them a hook and present them with interesting facts," explains Kingsley. Hauenstein writes many of the feature stories about Harper that you see in local papers. This occurs because editors pressed for time will often take a story and print it word for word from a well-written press release. Aware of the need to get the information to the

most effective person, the department maintains a list of media contacts, which is always being revised and updated. Hauenstein frequently meets face-to-face with reporters who work the education beat. "It's a way of making sure your message is heard," says Hauenstein. In addition, reporters often call this office seeking an expert in a specific area to serve as a resource. If Hauenstein or Kingsley are not knowledgeable on the subject they can direct them to someone on campus who is.

Community Relations

The Speakers Bureau is utilized by not-for-profit organizations, such as the Rotary, public libraries and churches, which seek a speaker for a program. Kingsley maintains a list of Harper employees willing to contribute their time and share their expertise. Also facilitated through this department is Friends of Harper. This support group shares information about Harper College on an informal basis with community leaders.

Legislative Relations

Dr. Thompson believes strongly in taking an active part in supporting legislation and policies that benefit students. His involvement with ICCTA (Illinois Community College Trustee Association), the ICCB (Illinois Community College Board) and the President's Council adds to the leadership position of Harper among other colleges nationwide. The community college organizations have people in Springfield who study all the bills proposed. "By staying in frequent contact with them and by communicating with his colleagues, Dr. Thompson is very aware of the political environment," explains Hauenstein. "Yesterday I was on the phone with Senator Moseley-Braun's office and Senator Simon's office. Dr. Thompson wanted both those senators to be aware of Harper's stance on the Kennedy Amendment. Dr. Thompson supports this bill. It is one of the many issues that concern community colleges because it affects students who are new to this country and their ability to receive financial aid." In February, Hauenstein traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with aides of Illinois representatives. This month she will attend a lobby day in Springfield to meet aides of state legislators.

The overall effect of this department is visibility. Through their efforts, Hauenstein and Kingsley have a positive influence on local public perception of Harper and communicate College concerns to local and national politicians.



Amy Hauenstein (left) and Sylvia Kingsley

Harper Happenings



in celebration of Cinco De Mayo, Multicultural Affairs, Latinos Unidos and Food Service transformed the cafeteria into the Harper Cantina. Luz Guadalupe served a variety of native dishes while diners enjoyed the music of El Mariachi Potosino.

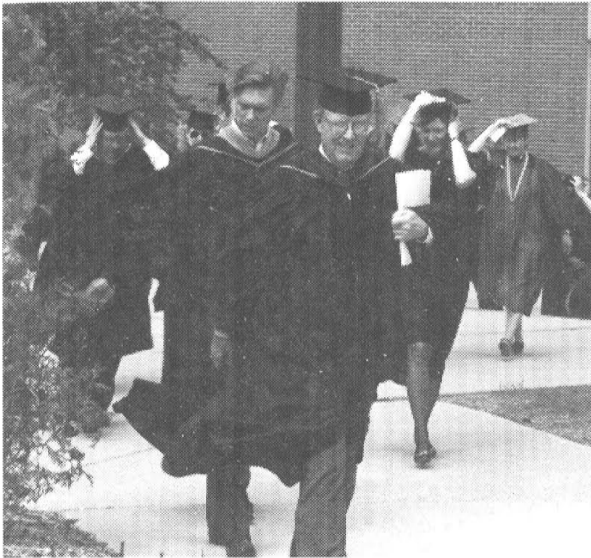


Recognized for her contributions to the Harper community, Liz McKay (left) was awarded the first AAWCC Harper College Common Threads Award. "Liz is a leader, and she's always there when you need her," said presenter Lucille Lopez-Wark.

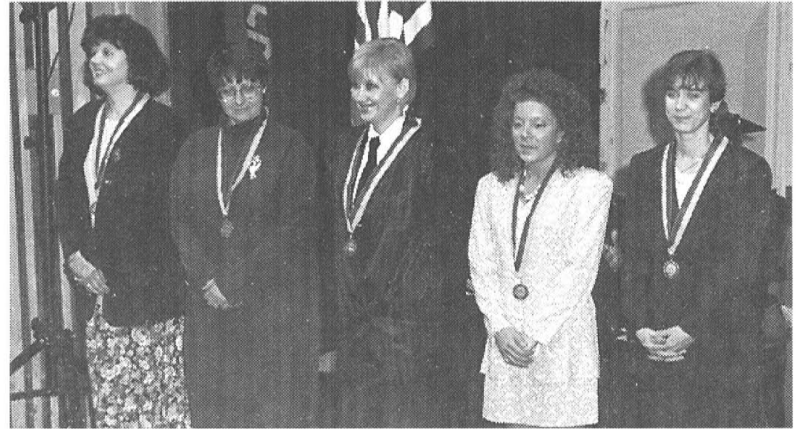


Employment Fair '96 was a success! An estimated 1,530 job-seekers and 125 businesses attended the event.

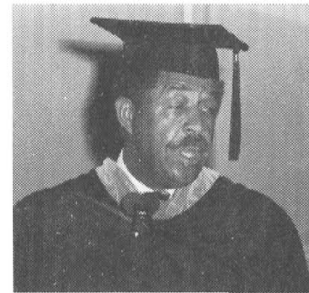
Celebrate Academic Achievement!



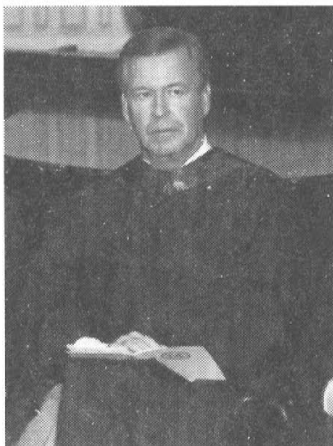
Hang on to your mortarboards! Dr. Ed Dolan and Tom Johnson lead a windswept parade of students.



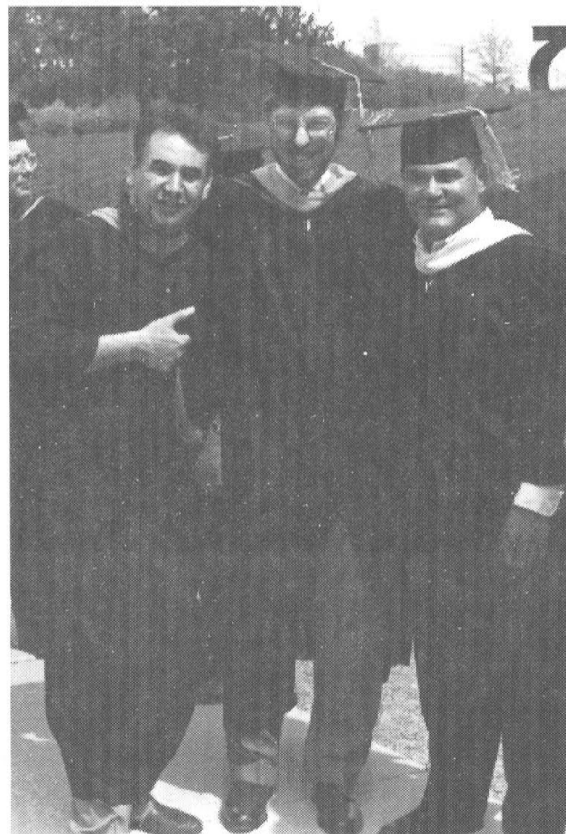
Students with a 4.0 grade point proudly wear their awards.



Bill and Molly Norwood's shared commencement address with a baseball theme hit a home run with graduates.



Pictured above at Convocation, Don Torisky was this year's recipient of the James J. McGrath Award.



Salah Falouji (left) and Bill Punkay (right) congratulate Distinguished Faculty Award winner Paul Sipiera.



Departmental Developments

Caryn Levington, COM CNSLG, has co-authored a paper "Suicide and Transcendence" with Frank Gruba-McCallister which has been included in the recently published book *Sacred Sorrows—Embracing and Transforming Depression*.

Dennis Brennen, BUS/SS, spoke at the 21st Annual Conference of the Association of Private Enterprise Education that was held in Las Vegas this April. Brennen's presentation was *Riverboat Gambling in Illinois—Revenue and Reform*.

President Thompson, **Barbara Knoff**, DEV, **John Knudsen**, ART, and **Judy Thorson**, (now ADM SER at Harper), participated as panelists in the 76th Annual Convention of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). Dr. Thompson and Knoff discussed William Rainey Harper's goals that led to the development of public junior colleges. Knudsen addressed community college art collections. Thorson, as a representative of Delta College, discussed operation strategies and finance.



Welcome to Harper! **Judith A. (Judy) Thorson**, the new Vice President of Administrative Services, is now at Harper full time. Thorson is the former Vice President and Treasurer of Delta College in Michigan.

Pete Labbe, PHY PLT, is a new grandfather. In April, his daughter Lori gave birth to Kylee.



Janice Sue (Jan) Phillips, AE/LS, was selected as the Illinois Adult and Continuing Educators (IACEA) 1996 Teacher of the Year. The award recognized her 28 years of service and dedication to the field of mathematics, as well as the energy, enthusiasm and professionalism consistently shown to her students.

Bill Schooley, TM/PS, was appointed by the Illinois Community College Board to serve for a second time as a member of the Admissions Committee for the Illinois Math and Science Academy. In addition, Schooley has received the Distinguished Service Award for 1995-96 from the Illinois Mathematics Association of Community Colleges.



Della Allen is now Director of User Services and **Russ Mills** is the Assistant to the Vice President of Academic Affairs, Continuing Education and Special Projects. Welcome to the following new employees: **Jerome Abend**, ADM SER, **Kathleen Burlette**, LIB SER, **Mark Clancy**, ADM OTR, **Robert Davis**, PUB SAF, **Thomas Hanlong**, BUS/SS, **Richard Mason**, PHY PLT, **Michelle Placencia**, PHY PLT, **Jeffrey Przybylo**, LIB ARTS, **Joanne Rothblum**, LS/HS, **Elizabeth Turner**, LIB ARTS, **R. Chico Vargas**, MCA, **Andrew Wilson**, LIB ARTS and **Kathy Zuo**, AE/LS.

The Harper
insider

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