

The

## insider

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inside

2

President's Message

Interview:

Peggy Kazkaz

3

Reflections from  
Steve Hill

4

Departmental  
Developments

## Very (Ful) bright!

Peggy Kazkaz is an associate professor who teaches English as a Second Language and Linguistics. This summer Kazkaz was one of 16 educators in the United States awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and the opportunity to spend four weeks traveling in Egypt. From Cairo and Alexandria to the Sudanese border to the North Sinai, "it was the spirit of the people" that impressed Kazkaz more than any sight she saw. Interview on page two.

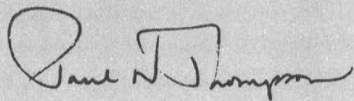
## President's Message

Each August since I've been president of Harper College I have had the pleasure of participating in the Freshman Experience, an event which is sponsored by Student Development and occurs a week before fall classes begin.

The Freshman Experience began in 1987 and is the culmination of Harper's orientation program for new students and their parents. According to Joan Kindle, Dean of Student Development, the goal of the Student Program is to help bond students to campus, something that is often difficult in a commuter campus environment. The goal of the Parent Program is similar — to help the parents feel connected to the campus and help them to understand about the services Harper offers, how the College is organized, and where they might go if they have questions.

The response to this program, from parents and students alike, is phenomenal and the growth in popularity has been incredible. This year more than 1,000 people participated in the Freshman Experience. Each year, as I talk with the parents and students after the program, I hear comments such as, "This has really been an enjoyable and enlightening event," and "I can't believe all that Harper has to offer."

The Freshman Experience has received national recognition. I think the campus community should know that even before students get to class, there's a significant amount of work being done to help ensure their success. I commend our Student Development division for this innovative and worthwhile event.



Paul N. Thompson,  
President

## Interview: Peggy Kazkaz

Q: Was your itinerary planned?

A: Yes, there was a very specific program that was divided into topics: ancient history, politics, environment, family issues, women's issues, religion. I spent my time getting a good overview of the country and its culture.

Q: What would a typical day be?

A: A few hours a day we might hear lectures, and then we would visit different cultural or educational sites. There we would meet authors, artists, politicians. One of the highlights for me was going to the headquarters of the Arab League (in Cairo) where the Lebanese delegate gave us a personal tour.

Q: Is there a difference between going as a Fulbright Scholar vs. as a regular tourist?

A: Absolutely! Because it was sponsored by the Fulbright Organization in Egypt, doors were opened for us. We met with Egyptian government officials, presidents of universities, heard what is going on in the schools. We'd have dinner with newspaper editors. It was incredible.

Q: Were you concerned about your safety?

A: Not at all. I loved the city of Cairo, although in the beginning it can be intimidating. All of Egypt is currently under a state of emergency, and has been since Anwar Sadat was killed. This was evidenced in the number of military personnel throughout the city. During my four weeks there, however, I never experienced any negative situations.

Q: What was it about the people that you found so inspiring?

A: They are very strong and very hard working. We went to a Bedouin village in the north Sinai and met with women who started NGO's (non-governmental organizations) in order to sell their embroidery. We spent time in Garbage-Collector City where the garbage collectors of Cairo live. These people go out in the early morning with carts and donkeys and pick up Cairo's garbage. Recently cooperatives have started, educating the girls and teaching them to recycle the garbage into paper products and cloth products, such as hot pads, that they can sell. An incredible amount of adversity, but so many are doing wonderful things.

**Steve Hill, 15, recently traveled to London. The following is his personal observation on the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.**

My wife Jill and I knew our honeymoon would be a memorable occasion, but the events that coincided with our itinerary served to permanently etch the occasion in our minds. We arrived in London on August 30, prepared to begin a four-day bus tour the next morning. Upon awakening and turning on the television, we learned the tragic news of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. From that moment, London was not itself.

The bus tour was mostly unaffected by the events, although every one of my photographs that includes a flag shows it flying at half-mast. The bus tour ended in London on September 4. It turned out that the hotel where our reservations had been on file for months was just south of Kensington Palace, Diana's home. Every day starting at around four o'clock in the afternoon the streets filled with people streaming toward the palace. Most people were carrying bouquets of flowers. Every conversation we overheard was about Diana. There seemed to be no other topic of discussion in the city of London. Signs were everywhere...in shops, on fences, on the streets...in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales. Condolence books were not just at Westminster Abbey and Kensington Palace, they were everywhere. A beautiful bouquet of flowers rested at the feet of Diana's wax figure in Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum and people lined up to sign the book of condolences there. The buzz of conversation, constant throughout the wax museum, came to a stop in front of the figure of Diana as people were suddenly lost in thought.

Friday evening I sat atop a mailbox on the street corner outside our hotel to watch in silence as Diana's coffin was driven past on its way to Kensington Palace for the night. Behind the hearse was the car containing Prince Charles and the young Princes William and Harry. The next morning I woke early to return to the street to be a part of the historic funeral procession.

The people were lining the streets five to 10 people deep. Many locals were bringing out stepladders to get a better view. The television cameras were on cranes high above the crowd. At about 9:15 in the morning (3:15 am in Chicago),



**Photo by Steve Hill**

the rows of horses went by, followed by the gun cart carrying the flag-draped coffin. Nobody spoke, the only sounds were the click of camera shutters and some gentle sobbing. Two dozen feet from where I stood, the procession turned into the gate at Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park and then was gone from sight, on its way to Westminster for the service. I returned to the hotel room to watch the rest of the procession on television. We watched until just before our hotel checkout time. On the way to the airport, our driver said, "In 35 years of driving in this city, I have never seen the streets so deserted." The funeral service was concluding. You could hear the service from just about anywhere on the streets, whether from nearby televisions, radios, or loudspeakers set up in public places. There wasn't a single shop open in the whole city of London, and most did not open until two hours after the service concluded.

As we passed through the airport terminal on our way to the gate, a large sign told us that Princess Diana was a regular traveler through the terminal, and that she would be remembered by the airport and airlines. People were pausing at the sign no matter how rushed...a simple gesture that told us Diana would be remembered not just by airport employees who enjoyed fleeting moments of contact with her, but by a world full of people who never had a chance to meet her and never would again.

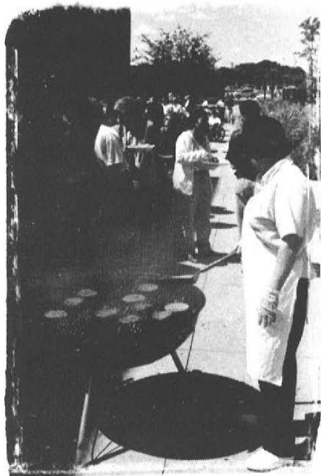
## Departmental Developments



◀ **Evelyn Hopkins** (pictured at left with *Veronica Potter, CE Art; Deanne Scanlan, CE student; Helen Wasiluw, CE Spanish; and other CE students*) and **Dawn Spannraft** held a week-long Autumn Open House for CE students and teachers. Attended by more than 100 people, the event was an opportunity to survey the students on the success of department programs and courses.

**Sunil Koswatta**, TM/PS, attended the 1997 seminar *Infusing Asian Studies Into the Undergraduate Curriculum*, held this summer at the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii.

**Jerome Stone**, LIB ARTS, presented a paper on teaching *A Simplified Version of Quantification Theory* to the American Philosophical Association.



◀ Everyone enjoyed the food prepared by **Debbie Hayley**, FD SER, at the All Employee Luncheon.

On behalf of the Academic Enrichment and Language Studies Division, **Liz McKay** presented **Paula Blacker**, Telecommunications Supervisor, with the 1997 Fall Semester Rutz Award. Blacker was recognized for her sensitivity to the needs of disadvantaged students, in particular for ensuring that appropriate communication assistance is available to disadvantaged students and to the people who work with these students. ▶



**Diman M. Di Manov**, AE/LS, was named to the National Dean's List for his academic achievement at Roosevelt University.

Congratulations to **Sheryl Otto** and her husband, John. Their son, Nathan John, was born on August 28. Nathan has an older sister, Brittany.



◀ **Harold Cunningham**, (left) retired mathematics professor, attended the dedication of the computerized mathematics laboratory in Building D, Room 131, which was renamed the Cunningham Math Lab.

Welcome to the following new employees: **Aldona Fudala**, LS/HS, **Michael Hopkins**, PHY PLT, **Maureen Newton**, LIB SER, **Tony Ruiz**, IS, **Michael Swier**, TECH SER, and **Joanne Walker**, CNS.

Senator Paul Simon and Dr. **Paul Thompson** discuss education and ties at Simon's recent campus appearance. ▶



**insider**

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