

## **President's Report**

### **October 2017**

The last month has been a busy one for Harper College! Students, staff and faculty have been active on and off the campus and involved in countless projects and activities leading to significant learning outcomes and community involvement. October and November are typically the months when a college develops its rhythm in the new academic year, sets a tone and begins the process of grinding to the conclusion of the fall semester. In the reports that follow we will see ample evidence of all that is going on and what has been accomplished.

We were so pleased that 5,800 students have now been assigned an advisor or counselor. Our goal for the fall was to assign at least 3,000 students, so we have surpassed that milestone. This month Sheryl Otto and her staff will provide the Board an overview of this initial launch.

The Harper sports teams have represented themselves well this fall semester. Currently the women's volleyball team and the men's and women's cross country teams are ranked #1 in the country among their peers. Our soccer teams (men and women) will compete in a play-off tournament this weekend to determine their status as their season comes to an end. It is always my pleasure to meet with each of team and their coaches. My purpose is two-fold: to thank them for representing Harper College and to talk about the difference between winning and losing versus "getting beat." My mantra is that you only get beat if you quit. You may lose a particular match or game, but as long as you compete to end and don't give up your opponent may win but they will never "beat you." I also encourage these athletes to take that approach to the classroom, in relationships and in life. Finishing with your best effort is the goal.

Earlier this week, the College hosted more than 1,000 high school students, parents and others who came to our fall open house to learn about the College and our programs. We were so pleased with the turn-out, as it bodes well for next fall's freshman class. This fall we are down about 2.5% in enrollment which is better than most Illinois community colleges, but down none the less. To address this, we are looking forward to our new partnership which will help increase the number of students attending Harper from corporations. These students are seeking to earn post-secondary credentials to improve their socio-economic standing.

The final accounting has taken place with respect to the 50<sup>th</sup> Gala financial results. More than a million dollars of revenue was received with a net of \$820,000 contributing to the Promise campaign. We are now 96% to goal and the Foundation is working hard to complete the initial campaign to raise \$10 million and begin fundraising for the million dollar challenge match the Board has offered. The goal is to have \$12 million available for Promise Scholars by June 30, 2018. I am confident we can get there.

Read on for reports from across the campus.

## **Student Success**

- Student Christine Hanna was selected as a 2017 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar and received a \$1,000 scholarship. The Leaders of Promise Scholarship, sponsored by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, recognizes 200 Phi Theta Kappa members with awards totaling \$200,000. This year's recipients were selected by a panel of independent judges from nearly 1,000 applicants. Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholars are selected based on outstanding academic achievement and demonstrated leadership potential.
- Two Harper Students were named USTFCCC National Athletes of the Week for NJCAA DIII Cross Country: Sean Sanaghan and Misbah Baig. They are both in their first year at Harper. The Hawks continue to be ranked #1 in the Nation for both the men's and women's cross country teams. They are the defending National Champions.
- The women's volleyball team, the defending National Champions, is ranked #1 in the Nation.
- This fall there will be 809 high school students earning dual credit in the areas of English, Math, Health Sciences/CNA, Law Enforcement, Fire Science, Manufacturing, Computer Networking, Sign Language Spanish, Speech, HVAC, Hospitality Management, Accounting, Fashion and Early Childhood/Elementary Education.
- Forty students and faculty were invited to Northrop Grumman for Manufacturing Day. The Harper attendees took a tour and listened to a guest speaker at their Rolling Meadows facility. This invitation was especially important to discuss the ongoing internship opportunities between Harper manufacturing students and Northrop Grumman.
- Harper's Manufacturing Department and Haas Automation co-hosted the HTEC Conference on October 3. The Haas Technical Education Center Network is an industry and education led initiative that enables manufacturing technology educators and their schools to acquire the latest CNC machine tools and related CNC ancillary equipment, software and educational materials.
- Harper's Manufacturing Department's close relationship with HAAS Automation has resulted in the College's logo being added to their NASCAR. This free advertisement will be seen at many NASCAR events to come!
- Student Development continues to provide advocacy and resources for DACA students. Of special note is the work of Academic Advisors in the Center for Multicultural Learning and Academic Advising and Counseling. Devin Chambers, Norma De La Rosa and Ana Luna have arranged and participated in leading and supporting outreach and informational sessions for students and staff, vetting and assembling resources for advocacy, and providing connections for students with legal assistance in the community.
- The Rita and John Canning Women's Program is partnering with Amie Granger in the "Doing More Together" effort associated with the 50th Anniversary celebration, by conducting a drive to collect and package donations of „care kit" personal hygiene items for WINGS shelters.
- Michele DeCanio and Stacey Watson, Counselors in Access and Disability Services, were asked to present, as the only community college in attendance, at the College Inclusion Summit. The Summit is a collaboration of three organizations that have a common desire to improve the chances of success for students with autism. Michele and Stacey presented on Project TAP – Harper College's Transition Autism Program that they developed and coordinate. Project TAP utilizes an intensive case management system, a peer mentoring program, a parental

involvement component, and the use of other resources offered at Harper College. There are currently 34 students in Project TAP.

### ***Facilities Management***

- Classrooms H166, H184 and H186 in Building H will be converted into the new BEST (Building Energy Systems Technology) Lab for the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Technology program. Installation of the equipment continues and construction is scheduled to be substantially complete in November 2017.
- The scope of work for the Building B Boiler Room project includes the replacement of two boiler burners, chemical treatment system, water softener, deaerator and accompanying piping. The abatement is complete and demolition of the burner on boiler 1 has begun. Construction is scheduled to be substantially complete in November 2017.
- The scope of work for the Blue Pool Pergola includes reconstruction of the wood pergola. The contractor is fabricating the wood pieces and will begin installation on site in late October with substantial completion in November 2017.

### ***Information Technology***

- Business Systems – Three major projects were completed in the month of September. The Civitas Illume project was completed and is functional. The student dashboard went live on September 20. The project to replace the Discoverer reporting tool with Cognos has been completed.
- Student Systems – The appointment scheduling tool SARS was upgraded to SARS Anywhere to provide additional features and functionality. 25Live, the room scheduling system, was upgraded in order to maintain vendor support and to resolve system bugs.

### ***Human Resources***

- The Human Resources Office hosted an Employee Benefits Fair on September 25 in advance of the 2018 Open Enrollment period. Approximately 125 employees attended the open house-style event to learn more about employee insurance plans and other benefit plan options, including the recently added High Deductible Plan with Health Savings Account (HSA) being offered in 2018. Representatives from Blue Cross Blue Shield, Delta Dental, Better Business Planning (the new Flexible Spending provider), Workplace Solutions (employee assistance), LifeLock Identity Theft Protection, 403b vendors (Valic and AXA Equitable), and VSP (supplemental vision benefit plan) were in attendance. Human Resources staff were on hand to speak with employees. In addition, the first 50 employees to arrive received a free flu shot from the Harper Health and Psychological Services Office.
- Paula Saltzman has been named Chair of the Advisory Council for the Greater Chicago Midwest Higher Education Recruitment Consortium (GCM-HERC). GCM-HERC is a non-profit consortium of colleges, universities, hospitals, research labs, and related non- and for-profit organizations. Consortium members share a commitment to hiring the most diverse and talented faculty, staff, and executives.

## Advancement

- Harper College along with partners Northern Illinois University and Township High School District 211 were selected as one of four teams to take part in the Seamless Transfer Pathways (STP) Design Challenge. Led by Education Design Lab and supported by funding from the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, the Design Challenge will lead two-year and four-year institutions through a student-centered, design innovation process intended to improve transfer pathways and graduation rates for students seeking bachelor's degrees.
- Student success stories are highlighted monthly in InsideHarper supporting the overall three-year communication objective to build awareness and understanding for the diverse community we serve. A recent story about Bree Bogucki, a student on the autism spectrum, was viewed by 195 employees.

Bree Bogucki is an amazing student. She is a cross-country and track and field athlete, a student club president, a student worker and a full-time Harper student. A few years ago, she won a talent competition (singing), and her prize was the opportunity to professionally record a song written for her by Jim Peterik (founder of the band Survivor, co-writer of "Eye of the Tiger") and Lisa McClowry. The song, "[I Was Born Yesterday](#)", is available on iTunes. Her talent and advocacy work netted her an invitation to speak to the employees at Coca-Cola's headquarters in Atlanta, and she has hobnobbed with Maria Shriver. Bree wants to pursue a degree in human services and has shared her story at Harper's Human Services Conference. Her mother, Mary Ellen Bogucki, shares their story in a regular blog entitled, "Forgetting Milestones and Learning to Measure Progress...a New Way of Thinking! #Hope" where you can read more about Bree's journey.



- Harper College 50th Anniversary Gala



More than 400 people attended the 50th Anniversary Gala on Saturday September 16 at Priester Aviation. The event raised over \$1,075,000 (gross) and \$820,000 (net), which far exceeded original goals and expectations. Proceeds from the Gala will benefit the Promise Program. Highlights of the evening included tables honoring Harper's founding faculty and current faculty members, Face book live video posts with interviews from board members, business executives and community leaders, and a Promise scholarship appeal that raised over \$150,000!

## Marketing Services

- Last spring, families who attended the College and Career Expo were invited to wish Harper a Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday. The video featuring their greetings debuted on September 13, the anniversary of the first day of classes, and is currently featured on the anniversary website: <http://www.harpercollege.edu/50>

## Happy Birthday, Harper College



September 13, 1967 was the first day Harper College opened its doors. Watch as the community comes together to wish Harper College a happy birthday.



- This fall, Marketing Services launched “Today I learned,” featuring Harper students sharing what they learned on campus on a particular day. The feature will continue through the College’s 50<sup>th</sup> celebration and beyond as part of its focus on sharing stories of student success. “Today I learned” can be found on the College’s Instagram, Facebook and Twitter pages.



## Planning and Institutional Effectiveness

- On September 29, the Learning Assessment Committee and the Academy for Teaching Excellence held the 9th Annual Harper College Assessment Conference and Share Fair. More

than 90 employees attended the event focusing on student learning assessment, including a keynote address and workshop from José Antonio Bowen, author of *Teaching Naked*. The conference also highlighted the College's five General Education outcomes during the poster session and a presentation entitled, "Graphs and Tables are More Than Just Pictures."

- Harper received notification from HLC on September 26, 2017 that its Quality Initiative (QI) Report was approved. The QI, "Improving Student Achievement through Broad-based Evaluation and Planning," was a four-phased initiative that engaged stakeholders in evaluation and planning that focused the College on the changes needed to improve quality and increase achievement. The reviewers indicated that Harper demonstrated genuine effort in its work as well as institutional commitment to the initiative. Approval of the QI Report is one part of the reaffirmation of accreditation and is required to remain on the HLC "Open Pathway", the least restrictive option.

### ***Workforce and Strategic Alliances***

- Engineer Dick McCaffrey has worked with the Illinois Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Harper College since 2009. His company, RCA, has a patented system of 3D printing concrete stackable modules for the construction of hospitals, dorm rooms, and hotels. "The advisors I have worked with at the SBDC have been very supportive and encouraging. It is helpful to talk to the specialists at the SBDC. They put me in touch with people who could help get my project off the ground. And Harper students even helped with my website. The SBDC is a wonderful resource for anyone starting his or her own business." Learn more about this fascinating concept at: <http://www.rca-modular.com/>
- A Registered Apprenticeship program for Banking and Finance was submitted to the DOL Region V Office of Apprenticeship. This program utilizes the AAS in Business Administration with a concentration in Banking and Finance. This will be under review throughout the fall. The program was created in conjunction with the Illinois Bankers Association to support our local workforce efforts in the banking and finance employment sector.
- Dr. Rebecca Lake presented at the "Close IT Summit" in Chicago at the Palmer House. This conference was hosted by Strada Education: Innovation & Transformation in Career Services. The presentation was on Apprenticeship Strategies for Developing Talent.
- The Job Placement Resource Center has created a pop-up office in D139 as an outreach to students on that side of campus. Every Monday from 11 am – 1 pm students can drop in for assistance with resumes, interviewing or job search. This pilot program was created to replicate job placement support at different locations across campus, taking the service to where the students are.
- Harper's Mobile Unit has been active the past month. At the CE Instructor Orientation, a tour of the Mobile Unit was a chance for CE Instructors to plan out experiential learning activities for their courses. More recently, Enclave's entrepreneurship coaching groups utilized the Mobile Unit to access Gallup's online assessment resources through the technology capabilities environment. In addition, the Mobile Unit participated in the following events:
  - Ribbon Cutting @ Enclave-Thursday 10/12
  - Lincoln Elementary School Ambassador Tour @ Harper Main Campus-Friday 10/6
  - Lincoln Elementary School STEM Fair @ Lincoln Elementary –Thursday 10/5
  - Rupley Elementary @Harper Main Campus- Friday 9/29
  - Take 5 Harper @Starbucks - Tuesday 9/26
  - Holmes JHS Ambassador Tour @ Harper Main Campus- Friday 9/22
  - Harper Board Meeting @ HPC Wednesday 9/20

## ***Diversity and Inclusion***

- On September 28, members of the Board of Trustees, Harper's Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the President's Office traveled to the 2017 American Community College Trustees Congress to receive the Central Region Equity Award. Harper was recognized for our improvement in graduation rates for African American and Hispanic students.
- Dr. Pearl Ratunil, Special Assistant to the President for Diversity and Inclusion, attended the Chief Diversity Officer Summit at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management which sought to bring together CDOs from higher education, government, military and nonprofit sectors to discuss the latest academic research and practices in diversity and inclusion.
- On October 5, Dr. Ender signed a letter issued by the American Association of Community Colleges urging Congress to enact legislation such as the Dream Act to protect Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients who will soon be in danger of losing their status.

## ***Community and Legislative Relations***

- As part of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration year a committee made up of faculty and staff organized weeklong activities centered around giving back. The goal of the 50th Anniversary initiative is to enable Harper faculty and staff to give back to Harper's District 512 in thanks and recognition for the community's 50 years of support. "Doing More Together" will take place from October 23 through 27.
- On September 27, Community Relations and the Student Government Association hosted the League of Women Voters of Palatine Area's Making a Difference in Local Elections event. The program included a presentation by Mary Schaafsma, Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Illinois and a panel discussion. The panel included Anna Klimkowicz, High School District 211 Board Member, Sue Schick, campaign manager for former Illinois State Representative Suzanne Bassi, Valerie Sherman, Palatine Library District Board Member and Sulayman Qazi, Harper's Student Government Association President. Schaafsma among others. They discussed their experiences in running for office and working with campaigns. Over fifty people attended the event including members of Harper's Student Government Association.
- Community relations recently collaborated with Continuing Education, World Languages and Chemistry to participate in a STEAM Night at Lincoln Elementary school in Palatine. Students and family members had the opportunity to participate in a coding activity on Harper's Mobile Unit as well as a French and Spanish workshop conducted by students from World Languages. Nineteen students from the chemistry club conducted five different activities under the guidance of Julie Ellefson-Kuhn and Karen Daily. More than 300 people attended the event on October 5.
- On September 28, Jim Edstrom discussed the history of Harper College as part of the traveling timeline display at the Palatine Library. Jim discussed the origins of Harper, the changes that have occurred over the years and the important role Harper has within the community. Jim also conducted a history presentation at Friendship Village in Schaumburg on October 6 as part of the Lifelong Learning program.

## **Legislative Update**

- It remains unclear whether Harper College will receive the roughly \$46 million in capital funding before the 2018 election. Although the funding was included in the state budget approved in July, the Democratically controlled General Assembly and Republican governor need to agree on terms of a capital plan and any revenue stream necessary to fund it. The four legislative leaders and the governor met in September to discuss a capital plan that reportedly includes a public-private partnership arrangement.
- Two legislators from Harper's district, State Reps. Elaine Nekritz (D-57th) and David Harris (R-53rd), announced they will not seek re-election next year. They join a growing number of moderate voices leaving the General Assembly.
- Legislative Affairs attended an event hosted by the Barrington Area Chamber of Commerce, Barrington Area Council on Governments and Barrington Community Unit School District 220 at the Garlands of Barrington featuring Senator Cristina Castro, Senator Dan McConchie, Senator Tom Rooney and Representative Tom Morrison. Legislative Affairs also attended a legislative update luncheon at St. Alexius Medical Center. Castro, McConchie and Morrison were part of that panel, as were Senator Laura Murphy and Representative Michelle Mussman. Hoffman Estates Mayor Bill McLeod moderated the discussion.

## **Media Relations**

- *Daily Herald* reporter Eileen Daday covered Harper's recent 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala at Priester Aviation. Her article focused on the event's goal of raising \$1 million for the Promise Scholarship Program (the gross total surpassed \$1.075 million) and fun details from the night, such as a video featuring retired Captain William Norwood, the first African-American pilot for United Airlines. Norwood, whose wife, Molly, served on the Harper Board of Trustees, had this to say: "Harper has done an outstanding job. It's a real community treasure."
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article, "How Harper got its name," as part of a regular series of 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary stories running throughout the year.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about the recent announcement that Harper, Northern Illinois University and District 211 have been selected for the Seamless Transfer Pathway Design Challenge grant, which aims to increase bachelor's degree completion for community college students. The *Illinois Community College Trustees Association* distributed the article to its listserv. *NIU Today* also ran an article about the institution's State of the University Address featuring Acting President Lisa Freeman. In her speech, Freeman highlighted the partnership.
- The *Daily Herald* ran an article about Associate Professor Joe Wachter being a contestant in its popular Cook of the Week challenge. He says, "As a chemistry professor, I always enjoy getting a chance to talk to people about chemical concepts and the science of cooking can be a fun way to start the conversation, so maybe I'll get the chance in this competition to teach people some chemistry!"
- *DePaul University* ran an article about a new partnership to offer three programs – professional students (business administration major), communications and media, and IT – through the University Center starting in January.



- A *Daily Herald* letter to the editor highlighted Professor Getachew Begashaw's research showing how commercial zoning is more of an economic driver than residential zoning. A Rolling Meadows alderman cited his research as part of the city council's ongoing debate about a residential development proposal.
- The *News-Gazette* in Champaign ran an article about Harper alum Nancy Ramirez and her advocacy work on behalf of undocumented students like her. She became president of a group at the University of Illinois known as I-CAUSE (Illinois Coalition Assisting Undocumented Students Education).
- A *Daily Herald* article about a Des Plaines Chamber of Commerce initiative intended to support local veterans with education and mentorship as they transition back into the workforce mentions Harper's contributions.
- A joint article by the *Chicago Sun-Times* and *Daily Herald* exploring the decrease in the number of young people playing football mentions Palatine Mayor Jim Schwantz's flag football league and its connection to Harper.
- The *RSES journal*, a leading publication in the HVAC industry, featured Harper's program. The glowing article included a Q&A with program coordinator Jose Vital.
- *Crain's Chicago* ran an article about professional services firm Aon presenting its apprenticeship program as an example for other "white-collar firms" to follow. Aon, which partners with Harper and Chicago City Colleges to offer an insurance apprenticeship, was meeting with the heads of human resources from 32 companies.
- The *Daily Herald* ran articles in its sports section about the women's volleyball team and alum Katelyn Sommers, who helped lead Harper to a national championship last year and is now contributing in a big way to Trinity International's team.

## ***President's Priorities Update***

### ***1. Advocates for Students***

- More than 5,800 students have been assigned an academic advisor or counselor. Assigned advisors and counselors are actively monitoring their students using the Early Alert program. Additional outreach includes a general mid-term check-in and reminders to students on academic probation that they need to be seen by their counselor before they can register for the Spring semester.
- Kris Hoffhines, Matt McLaughlin, Kathy Bruce, David Antonides, and Anita Rehberg attended the Achieving the Dream Integrated Advising and Student Support Institute. This hands-on institute provided an opportunity to work with AtD coaches to examine how to better integrate our new advising model into the overall student success agenda of our College.

### ***2. First Year Seminar and Educational Plan***

- The 45-minute Educational Planning Workshops to help new students prepare for building their Educational Plan are in full swing and being led by the academic advisors. Start Smart sections that offer a workshop during class time reached over

840 students. Out-of-class and online workshops have reached an additional 250 students. The workshops will be offered through the end of October.

- As part of the launch of the new MyHarper portal this month, students will have access to a custom educational plan tracker, built specifically for Harper. Students have a visual degree/certificate completion bar along with information as to whether they are “on or off plan.” These enhancements are an exciting addition and will allow students to better monitor their own academic progress.
- The recent Assessment Fair featured a presentation about blended FYS - Focus on Your Future – for new undecided students. Jennifer Godish, Anita Rehberg and Vicki Atkinson shared their insight about the benefits of blended learning for undecided students and Jenny Henrikson, from the Academy, shared resources to support the development of online/blended instruction.

### 3. *Buildings F, M and Canning Center*

- **Building F Renovations** – The first floor interior wall construction is complete and the contractor is currently working on the ceilings, carpet, exterior metal panels and site work.
- **Building M Renovations and Addition** – The foundations at the west addition are complete and the contractor is working on steel erection and detailing, foundations at the south addition, lower level masonry walls, and HVAC and electrical rough-ins.
- **Canning Center** – The State of Illinois has approved the appropriation of the funding for the Canning Center project. No funding has been released by the Governor to date.

### 4. **Promise Program Funding**

Total Contributions Raised	\$ 7,507,533.35
Gala Net Proceeds	\$ 820,000.00
Pledges (verbal)	\$ 100,000.00
	\$ 500,000.00
Interest Income	\$ 634,851.43
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 9,562,384.78</u></b>

Goal	\$10,000,000.00
% to goal	96%

Program to begin Fall 2019  
 2 years remaining before Fall 2019  
 549 donors

Over the next month we will make final preparations for several important events. Our Distinguished Alumni event will occur on November 2, where we will celebrate the induction of an alumna from each of the College's five decades. Later in the month, on November 8 and 9, we will host Higher Learning Commission colleagues as we participate in a "mock" accreditation visit that will help us prepare for the actual visit in March 2018. On November 10 we will enjoy the College theater department's opening night of *Hair, The Musical*. November will be fast-paced as the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, signaling the ramp-up to final exams and the end of the fall semester.

And just to add a little drama to this busy time of the year: GO CUBS!!!

*Ken*