

President's Report

August 2011

The College is gearing up for the start of fall semester. This week, full-time and adjunct faculty returned to campus for Orientation Week sessions and to prepare for the semester. Students begin classes next week and for a few days it will feel a bit like organized chaos as we assist newcomers who are attempting to find their way around campus. We continue to balance class sizes by adding and deleting courses as necessary. This is certainly a busy time on a college campus.

We are anticipating a 1% increase in enrollment, compared to last fall. As you will recall, we budgeted a 2% increase, but only spread 1% across the budget, leaving 1% in contingency. It appears as if this was a good strategy. We will have official enrollment numbers after the 10th day of the semester; this is the common practice throughout the Illinois community college system. I will report on those numbers next month.

On August 16, we conducted the President's All-Campus Meeting, a bi-annual ritual at the College. We worked through an agenda that introduced new employees, reviewed last year's priorities, and shared the priorities for the new academic year. A great deal of effort goes into developing the support materials for these meetings. This year we had a special focus on Harper personnel who support student success. Through five different videos we shared student experiences from last year and highlighted the extraordinary work of our talented faculty and staff. Special thanks goes to Justin LeBreck, Dave Dluger, Melanie Krakauer, Jessica Mandra, Paul Santellano, Mike Barzacchini, Meg Coney and Sheila Quirk-Bailey for all their efforts in making this year's opening so special. Thanks to all!

We also wish to acknowledge all the College personnel who participated recently in the mass emergency drill conducted on our campus. A special acknowledgement goes to Erin Brooks who substituted for Phil Burdick. Erin diligently ran the College's communications program during the mock emergency. In doing so, she brought her professionalism to the table and did a great job. Thank you, Erin!

All of our fall sports programs are in the final preparation stage for the games to begin! Football, soccer, cross-country and volleyball have checked in, completed physicals and are practicing hard. I had the occasion to visit football practice a few times in the last week and the players look bigger and stronger than ever! We wish all of our teams well this fall.

In the correspondence section of the Board packet you will see a very complimentary letter from *Women Employed* regarding the Rita and John Canning Women's Center and all of the good work coming out of that Center. I wish to offer a special thank you to Rita and John for making that opportunity possible for our College.

We also want to recognize the extraordinary gift of \$106,000 recently received from Alexian Brothers supporting scholarships for bilingual nursing students. This recognizes a tremendous community need that we can begin to address with this gift. In addition, the Schneider Electric Foundation provided a \$40,000 grant to the Harper College Educational Foundation to support the development of green technology curriculum. Special acknowledgment to Cathy Brod for stewarding these gifts for the College.

On September 19, we will be meeting with the Board to begin our exploration of policies related to the College's finances and begin a process that will lead to established metrics for each of the institutional effectiveness measures (IEM). Joining us will be members of the College governance system's Institutional Planning Council, our strategic planning accountability team, union executives, and the President's Cabinet. Through this work we anticipate demonstrating methods in which collegial decisions can occur across the campus. We intend to build on this work as we evaluate our current shared governance system.

There is a lot of activity occurring across the College that we wish to also highlight.

July Storm and Aftermath

During the weekend of July 22 through 24, a major storm hit the area resulting in power loss to the western portion of campus. Flooding ensued in several buildings. The Testing Center and hospitality/culinary classroom in Building A, Building V, and the Wojcik Conference Center had significant water infiltration which caused damage to computer equipment, mechanical and electrical equipment, floor coverings, and walls. Additionally, water infiltrated the Building P Chiller Plant rendering several other buildings located in the central part of campus without air conditioning. The power outage directly impacted the data center located in Building A, as well as all technology services on the West side of campus. In response, the Technical Services staff worked continually to ensure the Student and Financial systems continued to be available throughout the weekend, and made certain services were reestablished on campus as soon as power was restored. Technical Services staff and managers were also on hand to dismantle and relocate the Assessment and Testing Center which was flooded during the storm. The Testing Center was relocated to Building I, and computers were prepared so that testing could continue during the week of July 25. Physical Plant employees also worked around the clock to ensure the campus was ready to open on Monday morning. On Monday and Tuesday, employees from W were relocated to the HPC and other areas on campus as there was no air conditioning in the building. Employees, students, and others on campus were very cooperative and flexible with office and other arrangements.

Physical Plant staff worked throughout the weekend in conjunction with other departments to address damage to mechanical and electrical equipment, classrooms, offices, and other areas affected by the storm. Water extraction commenced at approximately 6 am on July 23 and continued through the weekend, followed by other restorative services including complete removal of unsalvageable finishes like floor coverings, wall sections, stored items, etc. Complete sanitization and indoor air quality testing commenced until conditions were declared appropriate

for re-occupancy. Estimated flood-related costs identified to date are approximately \$325,000 and have been submitted for insurance recovery. Harper's deductible is \$5,000.

Police Department

- **Emergency Training Exercise** – On Wednesday, August 10, Harper hosted an emergency training exercise which is mandated by State law to occur once every five years for all Illinois colleges and universities. The Harper College event was the first such exercise conducted by an Illinois college or university in compliance with this law. The exercise involved 170 fire personnel, 23 fire departments, and 30 law enforcement personnel from Harper and surrounding communities. Four communities surrounding Harper activated Emergency Operations Centers to assist with the training. Approximately 100 volunteer victims and 60 exercise staff also participated. This training, which cost \$80,000, was funded by the Chicago-Cook County Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI).



Information Technology

- **U-Select** – IT completed the implementation of U-Select for Harper College, which is a nationwide, web-based transfer information system that provides the student with fast and accurate course and transfer information. The programs and classes of the College are now visible to U-Select.
- **Linking Student Registration and the Bookstore** – Harper implemented functionality to pass student registration information from Banner to the Bookstore system. When a student clicks a link on the registration page for their books, they are transferred to the

Bookstore's website. The Bookstore's website then presents all textbook information to the student.

- **Mobile Platform** – The Android version of the Harper College mobile application was certified and placed into production making it available via the Android Application Store. Also, the Harper College custom directory was completed and placed into production, providing directory information about the departments and services of the College.

Institutional Effectiveness

- The first edition of *Student Success Matters*, a newsletter that shares college-wide communications on data related to our student success discussions, has been published. This first newsletter highlights Harper data and rationale for using student milestones and momentum points to monitor and address student achievement. This framework provides a common language for our student success work as well as common evaluation points.

Human Resources

- **Faculty Earned Credit Approval** - The Faculty Earned Credit Approval process is now available online to full-time faculty via Oracle Employee Self Service. This process automates the tracking by which faculty are awarded additional credits for continued professional development.

Office of the Provost

- Julie D'Agostino, Nursing faculty, was the recipient of the 2011 Regional Nursing Spectrum Award in Teaching. Julie is now in the running for the National award that will be presented in October 2011. The award will be announced in the November 2011 Gannett Publication called *Nursing Spectrum*.
- Joanne Leski, Nursing faculty, served on the spring 2011 National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) Evaluation Review Panel (ERP) for Associate Degree Programs in Atlanta, GA. Joanne Leski was also recertified by the American Heart Association as an Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) Provider.
- The Village of Schaumburg Sister Cities Commission group from Japan toured the Harper campus to learn about community colleges. The tour included stops at the Simulation Hospital and the Nanoscience Technology lab. Thanks to Barb Gawron and Sam Levenson who provided overviews of our programs in the Career Programs Division.
- On June 20-24, area high school and Harper College counselors participated in a graduate course, *Using Programs of Study for Academic and Career Counseling*. The course, taught by Dean Sally Griffith and CIS faculty, Judi Zaplatynsky (BUS/SS) is designed to help familiarize counselors with career programs at Harper College.

- Dave Braunschweig, CIS faculty, contributed to the recently published 7th Edition of *Concepts of Database Management* by Pratt and Adamski.
- Dr. Steve Vaupel, adjunct faculty in Psychology, was awarded the ICCFA 2011 Faculty Workshop Grant from the Illinois Community College Faculty Association. As a recipient of the award, Dr. Vaupel is recognized for his dedication and hard work in further promoting professional development at the community college level.
- Kevin Long's production of *Enchanted April* was completely sold out for every performance of the July 19-21 and July 26-28 show!
- New full-time student orientation continues with 1,519 students served as of July 14, 2011. This represents an 8% increase over last year.
- The Center for New Students and Orientation has completed its analysis of student traffic data for 2010-2011 and notes an overall 5% increase in student contacts – 93,714 compared to 89,225.
- On June 22, 2011, representatives from the Admissions Outreach department hosted a table at the 93.9 Lite FM Listener Lunch at the Continental Towers in Rolling Meadows. Over 750 employees from the Continental Towers attended the event. The employees had the opportunity to speak with Harper representatives to learn more about educational opportunities available to them here at Harper College.
- Enrollment Services, along with the Health Care Division, hosted a Health Career Information Night on Tuesday, July 19, 2011 in the Wojcik Conference Center. The event had over 150 prospective students in attendance who expressed an interest in one of the eight health care programs that were represented.
- Kim Fournier, Library faculty, received an ITC Technology mini-grant to attend the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans and pre-conference titled, "*Patron-Driven Acquisitions in Academic Libraries: Maximizing Technology to Minimize Risk*," June 24-26, 2011.
- The Writing Center continues to experience growth in student contacts. Over 8,000 students worked with writing specialists and English tutors during this past year.
- Continued growth in Success Services for Students has brought the number of student contacts to more than 3,000 for 2010-11.
- Records in the Tutoring Center have been collected for FY 11. Highlights are as follows: 5,411 individual students served which represents a 50% increase over 5 years; 25,538 total student contacts, a 57% increase over five years; 33,638 total tutoring hours, a 66% increase over five years.

So, we are off and running into a new semester and academic year. With four relatively new Board members, the fall will be a tremendous time to experience the breadth of William Rainey Harper College. We look forward to showing the College off!

Cathy and I will be spending the Labor Day weekend in Virginia as we refresh from a busy summer and hectic fall opening. We look forward to fall full of collegial work and student success. Enjoy the end of the summer!

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