

President's Report

November 2012

The month of November is rich in tradition. Earlier this week we honored our employees who served in the armed forces during our annual "Employee Day" which coincides with the national Veterans Day observance. Thanksgiving is also upon us, giving our employees and students time to spend with their families and friends. Once we return from Thanksgiving break, the fall semester will wind down; faculty and students will complete final classes, assignments and exams while staff admit and enroll students for the spring semester.

It was an honor to present on P-12 partnerships at last month's Association of Community College Trustees' (ACCT) annual meeting with Chair Hill and Barrington District 220 superintendent, Dr. Tom Leonard. The presentation featured collaborative efforts between Harper and Barrington to inspire post-secondary education and promote college readiness. We experienced an "overflow" crowd and received very positive feedback from attendees.

Once again, we are thrilled to acknowledge the Cross Country team as they were crowned National Champions in non-scholarship competition last weekend. This is becoming an annual celebration! We will be honoring these athletes and their coach during the Board meeting this week.

We continue to gather input from our employees as we select the appropriate methodology for our next Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accreditation cycle. Because of Harper's stellar reputation with the HLC, we have been offered three options. These options, and their benefits and limitations, are being presented during input sessions. Faculty and staff are then offering their thoughts and insights. The goal is to make a recommendation to the Board in December.

Presidential task forces formed this year have been working hard on important issues they have been asked to address. The Shared Governance Steering Committee, which began its work last year, has reviewed feedback from the fall input sessions. That feedback is critical as the Steering Committee honors the positive aspects of shared governance, but also considers ways to improve communication and involvement. The Job Placement Task Force has been meeting regularly to review current practices and propose ways Harper can better connect our students to career and job opportunities. The Diversity Task Force has identified a consultant who will help them examine current beliefs and attitudes among employees and define best practices, with the overall deliverable of recommending the appropriate goal for the College's Institutional Effectiveness Measure on diversity. Finally, the team working to develop the "Harper Leadership

Institute” is working diligently to design a program that will identify and develop leaders at the College.

We have also been busy launching the recently announced Trade Adjustment Act Community College Career and Training (TAACCCT) grant that was awarded to Harper College on behalf of 21 community colleges, referred to as the Illinois Network for Advanced Manufacturing. This grant, which was awarded for \$12.9 million, will allow these colleges to develop additional capacity in addressing the critical skills shortage in the advanced manufacturing sector. A search is well underway for a manager who will lead this effort.

Below are some notable activities and accomplishments from the past month.

Student Success

- The Department of Chemistry hosted the 198th Two-Year College Chemistry Consortium Conference on September 21-22, 2012. The conference theme was *Inspiring the Next Generation* and featured keynote speakers Moses Lee, Dean of Natural and Applied Sciences, Hope College, Holland, MI and James Salvador, Senior Researcher, Chemical Sciences and Materials Systems Lab, General Motors. Dan Stanford and Roger House co-chaired the conference.
- The Hospitality Department will receive \$2,000 from Marriott Corporation to fund two \$1,000 scholarships. The department has long term relations with Marriott which has in-district hotels including Marriott Hotels, Marriott Renaissance, Fairfield, Courtyard, Springfield Suites and Extended Stay hotels.
- The Hospitality Department, Marketing Services and Continuing Education worked collaboratively on the *Daily Herald's* “Cook of the Week Challenge.” This multi-month program in the *Daily Herald's* Food Section featured a weekly competition culminating November 1 with an iron-chef type competition for the finalists. The Department worked closely with the various departments to test joint print and online marketing efforts and provide cooking judges during October and at the final event.
- Harper College Radiologic Technology Program was recently awarded an eight-year accreditation, which is the maximum, by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT).
- Suzanne Barker, Practical Nurse Coordinator, will be receiving the TLC District 63 Volunteer of the Year award. This award honors individuals who have made a significant contribution to the children and families of District 63.
- Local artists are invited to submit their works to be sold at Studio V, a student-run, original works boutique at Harper College. Studio V is a brick and mortar storefront, located in Harper's Building V, launched by students in fashion merchandising, fashion design, business, and arts classes. Students will experience the real-world retail industry while showcasing student and local artisan creations. The boutique will offer a wide array of locally designed work including jewelry, fashion items, accessories, sculpture and art; all of which are student-designed and one-of-a-kind pieces.

- Dr. Kenya Ayers, Dean of AEE, provided the Keynote Address for the Harper Student Leadership Challenge, titled: Be the Voice: Exploring Authentic Leadership Principles.
- ESL Department faculty members Marjorie Allen and Kathleen Reynolds had articles published in the Fall 2012 issue of "The Link," a quarterly publication of the Illinois TESOL/Bilingual Education organization.
- Marianne Farinas de Leon provided the closing keynote at the NASPA sponsored Region IV East and West Men and Masculinities drive-in conference. Her talk was titled: The "In" Completion Agenda (Let's talk about Classrooms, Quality, and Connections).
- English Department faculty member Nancy Davis' story took second place in a short fiction contest sponsored by *The Ledge Magazine of Poetry and Fiction*. Her work, "By the River's Edge," will be published in the spring issue of that journal.
- Kevin Long was appointed Vice President of the Illinois Communication and Theatre Association during their annual convention.
- Department of Music Chair Greg Clemons has served as an adjudicator for several music festivals in Illinois including the *25th Annual Wheaton North High School Marching Band Festival*, featuring outstanding high school marching bands from Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Indiana. He served in a similar capacity for the *15th Annual Music Fest* held at Sandwich (Illinois) High School.
- Online students developed a supplementary textbook for CIS101, Introduction to Computer Information Systems, by contributing to an existing wikibook on information systems. Preliminary results between experimental and control sections of CIS101 over two semesters indicated more student participation, higher retention rates, and higher course grades. Contributing to and using wikibooks may also help prepare students to navigate future changes in the global production and worldwide distribution of information.
- The Center for New Students and Orientation wrapped up another busy season of orientation programming with 3,420 new students served over the summer. Student feedback to the programmatic revisions was particularly strong with many positive comments, especially about our well-trained and professional crew of student orientation leaders.
- The Center for New Students and Orientation is working with Phi Theta Kappa students and Professor John Garcia to provide training and support to PTK students interested in mentoring new students in FYE 101 and 'success courses' this semester.
- The Library organized a five-day voter registration drive with over 30 volunteers from Harper College and the AAUW. The drive was coordinated by Kim Fournier. Over 500 students registered to vote that week!
- The Library instruction program welcomed 73 classes into the Library during the month of October. Students meet in a dedicated library classroom to learn and enhance their research skills to find books, articles and electronic resources relating to their research assignments. Classes that met this month in the Library included Art, English,

Geography, Reading, Speech, Psychology and Biology. Over 1,170 students participated in library instruction classes this month.

Finance

- The annual Independent Auditors' Report of Harper's financial statements for fiscal year ending June 30, 2012 was issued in September. The College received an "unqualified opinion," which means the financial statements presented are free from material misstatements and are represented fairly in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) encourages government entities to go beyond the minimum requirements of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and prepare a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) that supports the spirit of transparency and full disclosure. Last year, Harper was awarded its second consecutive annual Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The College will again submit this year's CAFR for consideration of the award.
- Ron Ally visited Mohave Community College in Kingman, Arizona in September as part of a Higher Learning Commission Accreditation site visit.

Marketing Services

- Harper received an award from *Reflejos*, a local Latino paper. This award, Reflecting Excellence, honors Harper's service and outreach to Latinos. Juanita Bassler accepted the award with student Maria Marin of Latinos Unidos (student organization).

Information Technology

- A complex set of changes were developed and implemented to the web application in order to allow students to designate intent (at admission) of degree seeking, non-degree seeking, or certificate seeking, versus the current full-time/part-time designations. The project took many months and required ongoing collaboration among the Enrollment Services and Information Technology teams.
- EBS system enhancements were developed and completed. This automates the employee professional development request and approval processes at the College. Currently, this is a paper-based process where request/approval for professional development funds takes days to complete. The new system uses advanced EBS workflow function.
- Information Technology completed the upgrade of the Banner Financial Aid module from 8.14 to 8.15, which keeps the system up-to-date with regulatory changes.
- During September, Technical Services staff, in partnership with Motorola Solutions, completed the second phase of Harper's wireless network replacement project. This phase included the updating of the wireless network serving various outdoor spaces, including the quad and all parking areas around campus. The last phase, scheduled for

later this fall, involves significantly increasing the internet speed serving the student/public wireless network.

Human Resources

- On Friday, October 19, Harper celebrated and recognized the efforts of our employees as part of its second annual Harvest Fest, an employee appreciation event featuring music, food, and fun activities. IT Client Services captured the Golden Ear of Corn Trophy for their entry in the Retro-Scarecrow contest. Our sincere appreciation goes to our employees for their good work and continued service to the College.

Planning and Institutional Effectiveness

- New reports tracking the strategic planning goal and strategy team initiatives have been developed. These reports also track initiatives that have been brought to scale.

Workforce and Strategic Alliances

- The Continuing Education area successfully launched Banner's Flex Registration software. This provides a "shopping" experience for those searching for and purchasing continuing education classes. The project team included: Bo'Lynne Modzelewski, Deb Sada, Jeanne Kline, Hazel Rilki, Pooja R. Gecka, Grant Prellwitz, Terrance Bird, Susanne Stark, Beth Younglove and Karen Streu. Thank you for your hard work!
- Harper College for Businesses launched new CRM software, Microsoft Dynamics. This system provides critical customer relationship management capabilities and tracks customized training revenues and expenses. A sincere thank you goes to project team members Linda Mueller, Aarti Rao, Satish Prattipatti, Chuck Patel, Deb Sada, Robyn Leslie, Amy Vogelgesang, Lori Turinsky, Sarah Michaels, and Festus Johnson.

I have attended many local events over the past few months (Rotary, Lions Club) and continue to receive very positive feedback on our student success agenda. In fact, Harper's efforts were mentioned so many times during the annual ACCT meeting that it was almost embarrassing! (But, I loved every minute of it and felt so very proud of our staff and faculty.) I continue to be impressed and humbled by the efforts underway that ensure students attend, persist and most importantly **succeed** at Harper College.

Cathy and I wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving! We are reminded everyday how fortunate we are to be associated with this wonderful institution. Harper College is indeed a special place!

Ken