

September 6, 2017

Welcome from the New Academy Chair

As we welcome you to the Fall 2017 semester, I want to share a little with you about why I think Harper College and the Academy for Teaching Excellence are so wonderful. When I was growing up in a small town in New York state, the center of activity was our K-12 public school. I was fortunate enough to participate in an enrichment program called Odyssey of the Mind in which teams of students selected a problem to solve over the course of a year and had to present a solution with a creative demonstration; we also had to address spontaneous problems provided to us on the competition day with limited resources. We were continuously challenged and encouraged to think outside the box; time spent synthesizing ideas in these groups was enthralling. My experiences at Harper have brought back positive associations of working as part of a team where all members bring their talents, creativity, and dedication to finding innovative and effective solutions to improve the many integrated functions of our institution. [Continue reading...](#)



Identifying Inequities in Our Schools Workshop & Dinner

"The Art of Teaching for Equity" Community of Practice is hosting a workshop and dinner to generate awareness of structural, curricular, and pedagogical practices that may be serving to disenfranchise students at Harper and our neighboring schools. This equity literacy workshop, "Identifying Inequities in Our Schools" will provide an opportunity to explore the particular issues that students may face, develop a shared lexicon for discussing these concerns, and draft action plan ideas so that attendees may continue this important social justice work. [Learn more and RSVP.](#)

Harper College, The First 50 Years

In a Fall 2017 Faculty/Staff Orientation Week event on August 16, Trygve Thoreson, retired Harper English professor and author of *Harper College: The First 50 Years*, presented about the history of the faculty experience at Harper with a special focus on the formation and work of the Faculty Senate. [Learn more.](#)



[View ideas for infusing the book into your course.](#)
[Download the free e-book.](#)

Deafhood and Allies in Creating Dialogues Workshop

The Deafhood and Allies workshop is making its way back to Harper! Due to the incredible feedback we received last year, we are offering additional materials and extending the time of the workshop to allow more dialogue and activities as part of this interactive learning process. At Harper, the idea of collaborating across groups to address students' needs is becoming a growing trend. We want to continue with these dialogues-please join us! [Learn more and RSVP.](#)

Adjunct Faculty Teaching & Learning Conference

Thank you to everyone who attended the fourth annual Adjunct Faculty Teaching & Learning Conference on August 16! We had a great time collaborating with more than 100 attendees and we'd also like to extend a big "thank you" to all of our fantastic faculty facilitators for hosting engaging breakout sessions and roundtable discussions! [View photos from the conference.](#)



The conference focused on Communities of Practice: [Learn more](#) about Communities of Practice at Harper College (how to join a CoP, start a CoP, etc).

We have some extra good bags from the conference! Stop by the Academy (Building D, Room D281) to pick up a bag filled with resources, goodies, and important information from campus departments.

Syllabus Template & Checklist

Have you seen the Harper College Syllabus Checklist or Template yet?

The Harper College Syllabus **Checklist** can be used as a tool when developing your course syllabus and will assist you in preparing a document that includes both required and best practice information for Harper College students.



The Harper College Syllabus **Template** was created to meet all of the best practice and recommended items on the Harper College Syllabus Checklist. The template is also designed to meet accessibility guidelines for MS Word documents.

Visit the [Harper College Syllabus webpage](#) for:

- Example syllabi for face-to-face and online courses using the template
- Grab-and-Go college policy verbiage that you can copy and paste into your syllabus
- Language for student support services
- and more!

Title IX: It's On Us

All members of the Harper College community, including students, employees, guests, and visitors, have the right to be free from gender-based or sexual misconduct in their educational pursuits at Harper.

[Please share this video with your students.](#) Watch it in class. Post a Blackboard announcement with a link to the video.



Questions? Visit the [Title IX webpage](#) on the Harper College website or contact one of the Title IX Coordinators: Travaris Harris (ext. 6846) or Beverly Riley (ext. 6218).

Assessment Conference

Join us for the [9th Annual Assessment Conference and Share Fair](#) to find out more about how assessment can improve student learning.

Take a look at the [agenda](#), attend all or part of the day.

- Date: Friday, September 29, 2017
- Time: 8 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.
- Location: Wojcik Conference Center
- CEUs: 0.5
- [Register](#)



Featuring keynote speaker and workshop presenter [Dr. José Antonio Bowen](#), author of the award-winning book, *Teaching Naked*. Attendees will have several changes to win Bowen's newest book, [Teaching Naked Techniques](#).

Cornerstone Series

Explore the foundations of engaging and effective face-to-face and online classrooms with our new Cornerstone Series!



The series consists of four hands-on workshops:

1. Enhancing Distance Course Design Using the OSCQR Rubric
2. Making the 4 Connections in Your Classroom
3. Making an Impact with Collaborative Learning
4. Creating a Course Orientation with Blackboard Collaborate Ultra

Every workshop has two parts, and each part is offered twice (once in the morning, once in the evening). In addition, one of the workshops is offered fully online. Faculty who attend both parts of a workshop (or fully complete the online workshop) and demonstrate an innovation they've made to their online or face-to-face classroom at a Series Showcase can earn CEUs or a stipend. [Learn more and register](#).

Talking Teaching & Learning

Getting to Know Students From Day One

Written by Stephanie Whalen, Chair

What does your first day look like? Our former Academy chair, Pearl Ratunil, sometimes asks students to write about they wanted to be when they were 10 years old and then facilitates a lively discussion as students share their early ambitions; she reveals to her students that she wanted to be a writer at that age. I begin each new class by asking students about any challenges that may pose as barriers to having a successful semester and have them write it on an attendance card to share as part of introductions; I describe my current challenges to them as well. [Continue reading...](#)

Upcoming Programs & Workshops

[Teaching Online Successfully: Facilitate \(GEC\)](#)

Starts October 2 (online)

[Comic Books & Visual Literacy in the College Classroom](#)

(GEC)

Starts October 5 (blended)

Writing Strategies for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students

Friday, October 27, 9 a.m.

Constructing Difference: Understanding the Role of Social Justice in our Classrooms (webinar)

Wednesday, November 8, 12 p.m.



Academy Calendar

What's Happening @ Harper?

Diversity & Inclusion Workshops

Diversity Symposium

International Students' Reception

Mindfulness Sitzings

One Book, One Harper 2017-18: Laughs

Spirit Day Wednesdays

Take 5



Save the Date

October 2017: Disability Awareness Month Events

October 23 - 29, 2017: "Doing More Together" Giving Back Week: 50th Anniversary Event

Saturday, April 14, 2018: Community Day: 50th Anniversary Event

Friday, April 20, 2018: Faculty Development Festival

Academy News Submission

Academy for Teaching Excellence | 847.925.6174 | Building D, Room D281

academy@harpercollege.edu

Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Visit our Website

The mission of the Academy for Teaching Excellence is to create a vibrant teaching and learning culture for full-time and adjunct faculty that cultivates professional development in support of student success.

communities by providing quality, affordable,
and accessible education. Harper College, in
collaboration with its partners, inspires the
transformation of individual lives, the workforce, and society.

