

Coco Chanel Presentation – April 19, 2016

French fashion and flair arrived in Hoffman Estates on Tuesday, April 19, 2016, when the Hoffman Estates Sister Cities Commission, presented a historical presentation of Coco Chanel by Annette Baldwin and a design competition by Harper College's Fashion Studies program. This community event was held at the Bridges of Poplar Creek in Hoffman Estates and was held in conjunction with the 20th Anniversary of the Sister Cities Agreement between Hoffman Estates, Illinois and its Sister City, Angoulême, France.

Annette Baldwin is a former fashion director for Marshall Field's and is well acquainted with the ins and outs of the fashion world. She perfectly captured the essence of Coco Chanel's personal story, experiences, and her remarkable rise to Fashion Icon status – a tribute that is still acknowledged by the fashion world today.

In keeping with the French fashion theme, the audience of 190 people was treated to a display of garments created and designed by 20 Harper College students who designed Little Black Dresses and 7 Harper College students who designed Chanel-inspired Jackets. Each person attending the program was asked to cast their vote for their favorite designs in the Winner and Honorable Mention in each of the 2 categories. After the votes were tallied, the following students were awarded certificates and prizes:

Little Black Dress Competition: Winner is Jennifer Hanna and Honorable Mention recipient is Melissa Schultz (Mishel).

Chanel-inspired Jacket: Winner is Diana Park and Honorable Mention recipient is Violeta Popescu.

Special guests from France in the audience included Angoulême Mayor Xavier Bonnefont and his wife, Ms. Fanny Pignier, 3 officials from Angoulême and 4 members of the Comité des Jumelages. In addition, several Harper faculty members were also present.

Light refreshments were served after the program - in keeping with the French theme, Madeleine cookies, French Lemonade, Orangina, and a specialty cookie with the Coco Chanel logo was given to each guest as a memento of the day's program and celebration of all things French.

To everyone who attended the program, honored guests, Harper students and faculty, and to all who helped make this program a success - *Merci*.

