

Humphreys College

Newsletter

JUNE 2014

SPRING QUARTER



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FROM THE LIBERAL ARTS DEPARTMENT ...

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

By Cynthia S. Becerra, Associate Dean, Chair

This Summer Quarter the Department is offering its first pair of hybrid courses: HUM/SOC 290 History of American Cinema, which can be used to meet an upper-division humanities or social science elective, and CS 298 Social Stratification. Both are offered on Wednesday night, but meeting face to face on alternate weeks. So CS 298 meets the first week as a face-to-face class, and then for the second week, it meets online. Then HUM/SOC 290 meets online for the first week, and then for the second week, it meets face-to-face. Wow! You can take two classes in one night! It is like a double feature. Professor Richard Chabot's Social Stratification, a community studies course, will explore the multidimensional nature of stratification as it relates to inequality in the U.S. In the History of American Cinema, Professor Leslie Walton will capture our culture and its history through a selection of films. So if you are in need of two upper-division courses, do not hesitate. Register today.



The Passing of a "Cool as you please" Poet

*'Cause I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.*

~Maya Angelou
(1928-2014)

At every Black History Literary Reading hosted by the Liberal Arts Department for the past ten years, I have heard not one, not two, but several interpretations of Maya Angelou's "Phenomenal Woman." Each time a female student or faculty member recites it, I hear a slightly different version and, therefore, wonder if that is what one of the most formidable, popular poets of our time envisioned—that each woman would internalize its words and make them her own.

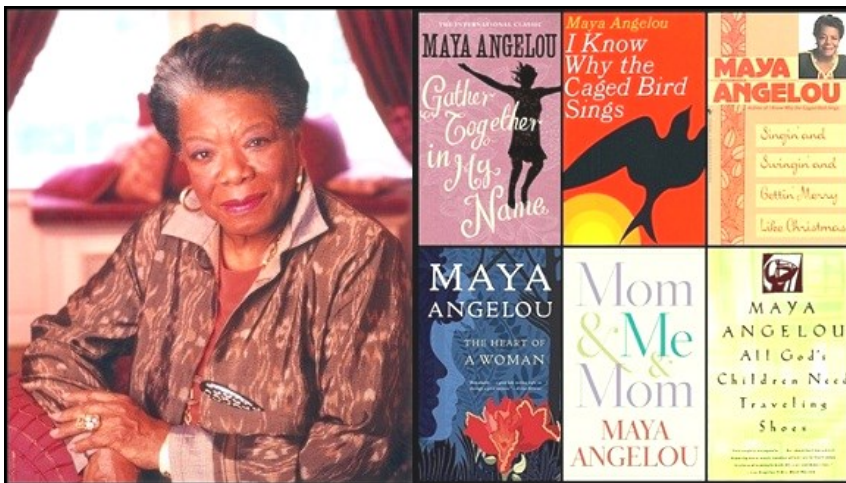
Several years ago I was present at a lecture and poetry reading by Dr. Angelou, which was conducted at San Joaquin Delta College.

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Many attended, including famous writers such as Maxine Hong Kingston, author of *China Men and Woman Warrior*. But what I remember most—and what haunts me still—is her telling of being raped by her mother's boyfriend when she was only an eight-year-old girl and feeling that she could tell no one. Then when she did tell, the rapist was beaten to death by men from her community, probably her uncles according to her. After that, she stopped speaking because she felt that she had caused the death of her molester by uttering his name. Thank goodness she found her voice again and became a prolific writer of poetry, screenplays and seven autobiographies.

For Maya Angelou, who died May 28, 2014, was indeed a phenomenal woman whose immense, beautiful six-foot frame helped many of us stand tall with our heads “not bowed.”



**FROM THE LEGAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT
(FORMERLY PARALEGAL STUDIES AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENTS) ...
NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
By Stephen P. Choi, Chair**

Currently, the Criminal Justice Program has more than 120 students between the Modesto and Stockton campuses and the Legal Studies Program has 90 students between both campuses.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Probation Officer Core Course: Probation Academy

Humphreys College began its seventh and eighth Probation Academies. They covered the following major topics: Roles and Responsibilities of the Probation Officer, California Justice System, Current Trends and Practices in Probation, Risk Factors for Probationers, and Physical Conditioning.

The seventh Academy was offered to San Joaquin County Probation Department which sent six officers. This group graduated in April. The eighth Academy was offered to Humphreys College students; it includes 220 hours taught over two quarters. The Academy is certified by the State of California Board of State and Community Corrections. Eleven students will graduate on June 26, 2014.



Probation and Corrections Supervisor Academy

Humphreys College was proud to offer the first online Supervisor Academy, approved by the State of California Board of State and Community Corrections. The Academy program includes 80 hours, facilitated

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through Moodle; it uses Adobe Connect for real-time distance learning lectures and break-out groups. Riverside, San Benito, Lassen, Siskiyou, Kings, and Madera County probation and sheriff departments' staff tele-commuted to attend the training.

Beta Alpha Sigma (BAS) Criminal Justice Club

Beta Alpha Sigma will hold a meeting on June 20 at 6 pm in Room 413 to discuss its participation in the next Regional Criminal Justice Competition to be held in October 2014 in San Diego. Anyone interested in joining should attend the meeting.

LEGAL STUDIES

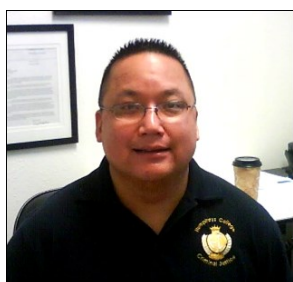
Legal Secretaries Inc. Annual Meeting

In May, I attended a Legal Secretaries Inc. annual meeting held in Concord, California. I spoke with many legal professionals, including legal secretaries, paralegals, and attorneys. This is what I gleaned from my experience; I called it *WRAP*. The *WR* stands for writing. Legal secretaries and paralegals are judged by the quality of their written-work product. This must be done expeditiously and with as few mistakes as possible. The *A* stands for attitude. Legal office workers must be team players and leave their personal differences at home. A bad attitude is not tolerated in the work place as is gossiping, tardiness, and immaturity. The *P* stands for professionalism. The legal office workers I spoke with were confident, assertive, and quick on their feet. Each one exuded the highest ethical standards, sophistication, and dedication to his or her chosen profession. I hope every legal student will strive for this polished look.



Internships

The Legal Studies Program has begun to place students into internships at the San Joaquin County Bar Association, California Rural Legal Assistance, Family Law Center, and small law firms throughout the area. I am constantly looking for new internship places. If you would like to intern and are able to commit ten hours a week, please come see me.



There are many new and exiting additions to the Criminal Justice Program and Legal Studies Program at Humphreys College. If you have any questions, please e-mail stephen.choi@humphreys.edu or come by my office.

FROM THE BUSINESS DEPARTMENT...

GET USED TO THOSE ONLINE TESTS, CASE STUDIES, AND ORAL PRESENTATIONS

By Jason K. Wolins, Chair

Have you taken many online tests at Humphreys College? Done any case studies? How about oral presentations?

If so, you just might have become skilled enough at online test taking, performing case studies, and giving

oral presentations to be ranked higher when you submit a job application.

Sarah Halzack wrote an article, "A new way to screen skills: Employers use online tests to rank resumes," in

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The Sacramento Bee, May 10, 2014, pp. B6, B7
(reprinted from *The Washington Post*).



Online testing isn't just for tech jobs. It is being used for a range of jobs at all rungs of the employment ladder—from bank tellers to corporate executives, from customer service representatives to housekeepers.

How popular are these tests? According to a study by CEB, a test provider firm, 18% of new hires reported taking online tests in 2008. This number grew to over 33% by 2013.

Some web-based tests evaluate a specific skill, like programming software or making change from an onscreen cash register.

Others use simulated scenarios of what applicants might come across at jobs. (Can anyone say *case studies* and *oral presentations*?)

Here are a few of examples of how these simulated scenario tests work:

- Δ **Example 1.** A customer service representative applicant at T-Mobile typically may go through someone like a cranky mock customer, “Jason,” who has been on hold for almost one hour.

“Jason’s” bill went up and he wants to know why. He rattles off his name and phone number. The scenario online test? The job

applicant quickly has to pull up “Jason’s” account, help him with his bill, and determine whether he is entitled to the \$30 credit he demands.

High scorers tend to resolve those customer calls around 25 seconds faster than low scorers. The significance? High scorers can handle one more call per day, or about 250 more per year.

T-Mobile job applicants typically have to take such online tests before they even are invited for interviews. Why? Companies look at web-based tests as powerful screening tools for evaluating skills and personalities to help identify the kind of worker who might thrive in a specific job.

- Δ **Example 2.** Marriott International likely will show a housekeeping applicant a landscaped area at a hotel and ask the candidate to find what is wrong. (Maybe a tool was not put away?)
- Δ **Example 3.** In one scenario test for a supervisory position, applicants have to show how they would speak to an employee who has been coming in late and has missed some meetings.

Like lots of innovations, there are pros and cons to digital job testing.

First, some cons:

- Δ **Roadblocks.** In a highly competitive job market during a weak economic recovery, applicants who are not very computer literate or lack Web access face roadblocks.
- Δ **Screening out the wrong people.** A certain percentage of people who should have gotten shots at jobs will be screened out.

The employer and test maker side, however, stresses some pros:

- Δ **Consistency and bias reduction.** Examination makers say the tests bring consistency and objectivity, which can sharply increase the odds of hiring the right people.

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The job search playing field becomes more level by removing the possibility of bias inherent in traditional resume screening, such as an applicant currently being unemployed.

- Δ **Accuracy.** Online test assessments are right more often than wrong.
- Δ **Algorithms are better than instinct.** Research has found that tests can be reliable indicators of certain personality traits, like conscientiousness.
- Δ **Improved technology and utility.** Technological innovations have made online tests simpler to administer, and data analysis improvements have made them more useful.
- Δ **Dealing with the volume of resumes.** As application processes increasingly are online,

digital testing helps hiring managers go through the increasing volume of resumes they receive.

A hiring manager at T-Mobile, Jared Flynn, perhaps summed up the new job application order. For T-Mobile, online tests have become a crucial part of the process for hiring store associates, managers, and call center representatives.

T-Mobile hiring decisions ultimately are made based on a combination of online test results and interview performance. However, managers look first to those who are at the “top of the barrel”—the ones who scored best on the digital tests.



FROM THE COURT REPORTING DEPARTMENT...

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

By Kay Reindl, Chair

Contributing Writers: Laura Poirier, Instructor; Pam Closs, Instructor; and Shivanee Sujata, Court Reporting Alumna

LOCAL AND STATEWIDE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT NATASHA WENTZEL

At the April 14 meeting of the Stockton-San Joaquin County Legal Professionals Association, Humphreys College court reporting student Natasha Wentzel was awarded a \$500 scholarship by Scholarship Chairman, Bret Smith. Scholarships are awarded to qualified applicants who desire a career in the legal field, which includes court reporting. Natasha was able to showcase her abilities and deserving qualities through her essay. Former court reporting recipients were Xiomara Urbina, Ann Breitler, Ashley Whatley, and Tracy Ellison.

Additionally, Natasha learned that her essay was chosen for consideration of the state-wide scholarship; she was awarded that \$1,500 scholarship as well. Natasha started at Humphreys in the fall of 2012. She is now at the 140 wpm speed level. She is an exceptional and dedicated student, as evidenced by her daily commute from Volcano, her 3.88 grade point average, and these scholarship awards.



Natasha Wentzel, scholarship recipient, with teachers Laura Poirier and Pam Closs

Congratulations, Natasha!

~ Pam Closs

LAW SCHOOL AND COURT REPORTING COOPERATION

In April, the Laurence Drivon School of Law Civil Trial Practice class held its annual mock trial presided over by the Hon. Judge Linda L. Lofthus. The court reporting program participated by providing two student “official”

reporters, Kim Brooks and Carrie Kahn. Also participating from the Court Reporting Department were Pam Closs, teacher; Judie Stevens, staff member; and court reporting students Erika Sanchez and Lauren May, who served as jurors. This was a great opportunity to provide input to the law students on the ins and outs of creating a clean record through the reporter.

~ Pam Closs



“On the record” with Judge Linda L. Lofthus presiding



“Official” Reporters Carrie Kahn and Kim Brooks



Judie Stevens, staff, with CR students Lauren May and Erika Sanchez as jurors

LAURA AXELSON VISITED HUMPHREYS COLLEGE

On April 28, Laura Axelson, a representative from California Deposition Reporters Association, came to speak about her reporting experience and the benefits of a DRA student membership. She is a licensed CSR, certified realtime reporter, and registered merit reporter. She has been practicing for 31 years and is also licensed to practice in Nevada. Additionally, she works as a trainer for Eclipse software.

She has used her skills and expertise to provide reporting services in various settings, although most of her work is focused on deposition reporting in the Bay Area. She has provided captioning for corporate gatherings and served as a CART provider for hearing-impaired students. Her students appreciate the opportunity to participate in the lectures, and she enjoys the benefit of learning from these lectures too. In the theater setting, she has provided a live feed of the script onto an LED screen as the performance plays out on stage. Tickets are purchased in advance by hearing-impaired individuals so that their seats are within view of the LED screen.



there were multiple attorneys present in the room and also those participating in the proceedings through the Internet. Other participants included the witness, videographer, interpreter, and check interpreter who verified that the interpreter was accurate.

In Helsinki, she provided realtime translation of the proceedings onsite as well as through the Internet for those participating from a remote location. She was equipped with steno machines, Netbooks, tablets, and laptops. This created an arduous task for her when moving through security checkpoints in the airports. Each piece of equipment was removed from its case and placed in a tray for inspection by curious airport personnel. She prefers to carry on her equipment to ensure that everything is handled properly and will be in working order when she reaches her destination.

Throughout her presentation, Laura stressed the importance of daily practice. After 31 years on the job, she still practices every day, even if it's only for five minutes, for pure speed by taking down dictation

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Laura has traveled abroad to cover depositions and has enjoyed the opportunity to sightsee on her days off. Recently, she was in Hong Kong and Finland, working on intellectual property cases. In Hong Kong,

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at 300-320 words per minute. She tells herself to hit a stroke for every word, even if it's not completely accurate so that she builds muscle memory. She reduces the speed to 200-250 wpm, which is comfortable for her. Finally, she will write at 160-180 wpm and focus on complete accuracy, including punctuation.

Practice without her machine includes listening to the radio or watching television and envisioning how she would write each spoken word. She feels this strengthens the "head work" required for her job. She also uses a table surface to mimic the keyboard.

Laura brought her steno writer along for the students to see. It was a very lightweight, ergonomic

model, and she explained that it is designed to reduce the fatigue caused by the repetitive motion of steno writing. She is able to write with a short stroke; it takes very little effort to depress the keys. As a result, there is less wear on the body over time, and she feels she will be able to enjoy her career for much longer.

As a representative of DRA, Laura encouraged the students to join the association and avail themselves of the benefits provided to its members. The student membership is \$30 per year. DRA will partner students with a mentor who can offer support, advice, and encouragement. The association also publishes a student newsletter and offers scholarship opportunities.

~ Laura Poirier

COURT REPORTING IN AUSTRALIA

In June, Shivanee Sujata graduates from Humphreys with her A.S. in Court Reporting. Additionally, she has qualified to sit for the July CSR Examination in Los Angeles. She recently traveled with her family to Australia and Fiji. In Australia, she researched her chosen profession.

What is required to be hired as a court reporter in Australia?

"There are very few requirements. They include a completed course in machine shorthand. Most firms give you specific procedural trainings."

In what areas of the judicial system are the reporters hired?

"In the judicial system in Australia the court reporter is a government employee on fixed salary, conditions, and working hours. The ladder of the judicial system starts with the High Court of Australia. To work at the High Court, one must be eligible for employment as an Australian citizen. The job also requires police and medical checks. The other tribunals are the Federal Court of Australia, the Family Court of Australia, and the Federal Magistrates Court of Australia. Australian state and territory courts have jurisdiction in all matters brought under state or territory laws. Each state and territory court system operates independently. Courts known as 'district' or 'county' hear more serious cases. Lesser offenses are dealt with in local or magistrate's courts (or courts of petty sessions). In the courts, evidence is reported verbatim. There is no death penalty in Australia. In Hansard, the working hours depend on the sittings of Parliament. Hansard is the name given to the edited transcripts of debates in the Senate, House of Representatives, Federation Chamber, and parliamentary committees. They are published shortly after the chamber or committee proceedings have concluded. The official record is an edited version of the parliamentary proceedings. The editing is performed by court reporters who have excellent language and high-speed shorthand skills."



Are court reporting freelancers or hired by the country/province?

"Machine shorthand reporters in Australia often work for the state, territory, and federal governments. Some machine shorthand reporters work for private contracting firms or are self-employed. They may also find jobs reporting the proceedings at tribunals, conventions, conferences, and in medical services."

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What are salaries for reporters there? Do they all earn salaries? How about benefits?

- ✦ “Victorian Government Reporting Service is similar to a court reporting firm here in the United States. It offers a salary ranging from \$67,557 to \$81,738, plus superannuation.
- ✦ Hansard Parliamentary Reporter offers a total remuneration package of \$104,338 per year, or it can range from \$82,653 to \$94,552, plus superannuation and leave loading.
- ✦ Hansard Reporter offers a salary of \$59,236 to \$72,832, plus superannuation and incidentals.
- ✦ Parliament of New South Wales offers a salary of \$82,653.00 to \$94,552.00, plus superannuation and annual leave loading.

Superannuation is a way to save for retirement. The money comes from contributions made into your super fund by your employer and, ideally, topped up by your own money. Annual *leave loading* is an additional payment employees receive when taking paid annual leave. An *incidental* is an employment benefit given in addition to one's salary.”

Are Australian reporters doing real time?

“Yes, they do. Red Bee Media is a well-known agency; it is similar to a court reporting firm in United States. It recruits freelance real time stenographers to work in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, and Perth offices. Its requirements for freelance real time stenographers include ability to write steno-machine shorthand at minimum speeds of 180wpm, a conflict-free stenotype theory and dictionary, ability to work under pressure, and a flexible approach to work hours. Freelance real time stenographers are provided with an on-the-job training.”

Are there schools there?

“One of the well-known schools in Australia is the National College of Court Reporting, which offers a machine shorthand course. Its requirements for entry are completion of Year 12 with English and good keyboard skills. The program admits those who seek careers as court or parliamentary reporters, television captioners, CART Reporters for the hearing-impaired or those who wish to use machine shorthand as a reporting skill for rapid data entry in the medical professions and in the business world. The program is divided into three units of study. On average, each unit takes 500 hours of study/keyboard practice to complete, that is, 10 hours per week for 50 weeks. Unit One covers the theory of a real time machine shorthand system, including writing principles and transcription techniques, and dictation at a minimum speed of 80 words per minute. Unit Two improves a student's language use and vocabulary development and extends dictation to a minimum speed of 150 words per minute. Unit Three further improves a student's language use, vocabulary development and personal dictionary, while extending dictation to a minimum speed of 200 words per minute.”

What is the job outlook?

“Over the five years, through November 2017, the number of job openings for keyboard operators (machine shorthand reporters) in Australia is expected to be above average (between 25,001 and 50,000). Job openings can arise from employment growth and people leaving the occupation.”

~ Shivaneer Sujata

JOB OUTLOOK IN AUSTRALIA:

Indicator	Level	Decile
How many workers are employed in this occupation?	55,000	9
How many work full time (% share)?	61.4	3
What are the weekly earnings for full-time workers (\$ before tax)?	950	3
How does unemployment compare with other occupations?	average	5
What has been the long-term employment growth—10 years (%)?	46.1	1
What will be the level of future job openings?	above average	8

FROM THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DEPARTMENT...

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

By Pam Wood, Chair



Graduation is quickly approaching and the Early Childhood Education Department will recognize 40+ graduates again this year. I get excited during graduation as I watch each of our ECE graduates walk across the platform and receive her/his diploma. I find myself reflecting back to the time we first met; so many changes have taken place since then! Some of you have married; others have welcomed babies into your families, while some have had to say "goodbye" to friends and loved ones.



It's been inspiring to watch you grow as you have met the challenges along the way, bringing you to another milestone, graduation from college. The changes and challenges will not stop here, but the knowledge and experience you have gained during your time here at Humphreys will help you to embrace the changes and meet the challenges head-on.

I knew you could do it!

Ms. Wood

FROM THE LAURENCE DRIVON LAW SCHOOL ...

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

By Patrick Piggott, Dean

RESULTS OF THE FEBRUARY BAR EXAMINATION

The Law School is proud to announce that sixteen graduates who took the February Bar examination passed. It is an excellent result: 55% of our first-time takers passed, exceeding the overall percentage for all first-time takers. The successful passers include:

Alexandria Albertoni	Christine Parraz
Angela Cobb	Amanda Pimentel
Danny Cochetas	Nancy Ponce
Violeta Diaz	Cameron Ross
Jamie Levatino	Heather Seiden
Katie Limas	Parker Shelton
Michael Holtz	Claudine Sherron
Angelica Lozano-Quintero	Kacie Trammell

Violeta Diaz attended Humphreys College as an undergraduate.

Parker Shelton is the youngest new attorney in the state of California, having turned 20 in April.

Only six of these graduates are actually from Stockton. Katie Limas is the daughter of our alumna and instructor, Sheila Bahlin. Two passers were transfer students from other law schools. Last year, Parker Shelton and Katie Limas taught Constitutional Law to the students at ABLE High School, part of our professional training program.

LAW SCHOOL GRADUATION

The Law School held its graduation on Saturday, May 24. Thirty-three students were eligible to walk:

Taliyah Allen	Tiffany Graham	Nancy Ponce
Donatela Beitsayad	Benjamin Henderson	Paul Quirion
Tamara Carter	Robert Hickey	Kerndeeep Rajasansi
Johnny Chavez	Juan Lemus	Trisha Sales
Norma Chavez	Nicole Levie	Andrea Sanchez
Emily Chrim	Katie Limas	Parker Shelton
Juan Contreras	Mathew Massod	Shami Stovall
Malia Flansburg	Diane McCumber	Eddie Torres
Scott Frenette	Nicholas Miller	Laurie Trombella
Genessa Gayle	Dharlyn Montalvo	Jason Winter
Karl Glasman	Amanda Pimentel	Sintia Younan



The Valedictorian was Tamara Carter. Salutatorian was Scott Frenette. The class invited alumnus and City Councilmember Moises Zapein to give the benediction. President Humphreys and Ronald Guntert, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, did the ceremonial robing and awarding of the Juris Doctorate degrees.

Nicole Levie presented the class gift to the school, a moveable white board for the Library.



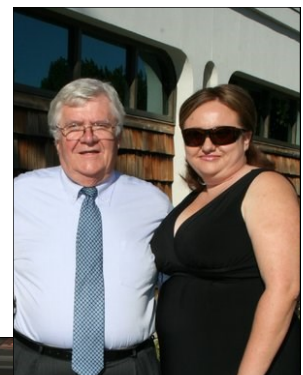
Katie Limas and Emily Chrim presented the Professor of the Year Award to the Honorable Judge Richard Vlavianos. Katie was a co-founder and Dean of the Delta Theta Phi chapter on our campus. Emily served as President of the Student Bar Association. Judge Vlavianos teaches Evidence and is the lead judge in the collaborative courts in which our students intern.

Associate Dean Matthew Reynolds and full-time Director of the Professional Training Program Archie Bakerink called out the graduates' names as Dean Patrick Piggott handed them their Certificates.

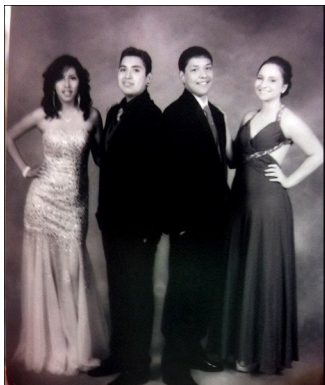
A PERSONAL NOTE ...

Martha Campos, Administrative Assistant to Dean Patrick Piggott, has moved to Sacramento and left her post. Seventeen years ago, Martha was a legal assistant AA graduate of Humphreys College when she was hired by the firm, Piggott, Ford and Dalton. When Dean Piggott came to Humphreys, Martha came with him as his full-time assistant. She was instrumental in many of the new Law School projects and actually served as Administrator for the Consuelo Callahan Inn of Court. She was the faculty facilitator and made it all work. She set up and coordinated the Grand Jury Training Week. The local Bench and Bar all know her and responded when she called. There are too many tasks that she always made seem easy, but tasks necessary for all the changes we have implemented. She is deeply missed.

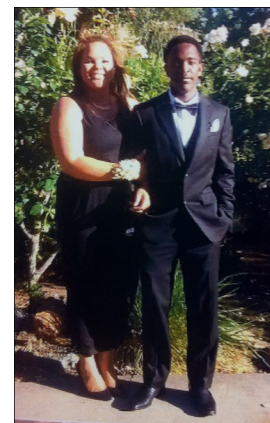
~ Patrick Piggott



FROM THE ABLE CHARTER SCHOOL ...

HUMPHREYS COLLEGE ABLE LEGACY BALL "2014"*Midnight in Paris*

On May 3, 75 ABLE students gathered for A Night in Paris, the Legacy's third annual prom held in the plush, Parisian confines of the Community Room on campus. The event featured a photo booth, a green screen that placed digital images of prom goers in Paris itself, a Humphreys College-sponsored chocolate fountain with fruit, and light snacks and refreshments. Humphreys IT Director Fred White served as the DJ for the event with teachers Vanessa Romo and Josh Reyman, Executive Assistant Ella Blair, Office Manager Nina Gayle, and Executive Director Matthew George serving as chaperones. The students were also treated by a visit from Humphreys Dean of Administration Wilma Okamoto Vaughn. The crowning of prom royalty provided the highlight to the festivities with Jacob Lopez and Vivi Huang elected as prom king and queen, respectively.



ACADEMIC COUNCIL EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS WORKSHOP ...

PUBLIC POLICY AND ISSUES IN EARLY EDUCATION

In May, Debra Eison, Executive Director of Creative Child Care and TEAM Charter School, shared state and federal updates on initiatives related to early childhood education. Apparently, there will be very little increase in funds for programs for children from birth to age four.

The California Governor has said that if the Kindergarten Readiness Act (SB837) passes, he will veto it. This is the legislation that would provide a Transitional Kindergarten program for all four-year-olds in California. Other bills are seeking to make kindergarten mandatory and have it change to a full-day program.

On the federal level, President Barack Obama has encouraged a "Strong Start for America's Children," which would support federal funding for children's programs zero to age five.

FROM THE LIBRARY AND LEARNING CENTER ...

HOW TO SUCCEED IN COLLEGE: EIGHTEEN WORKSHOPS OFFERED IN SPRING QUARTER

- Both New Student Orientation sessions were hosted by *Santa Lopez-Minatre*, *Julie Walker*, and *Kay Reindl*, Chair of the Court Reporting Department, who informed about her program.



- Leslie Walton* and *Julie Walker* answered students' questions concerning their budget management.

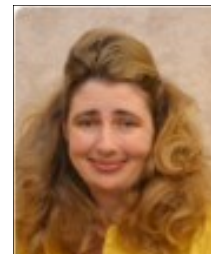
- Richard Hunt* and *Stanislav Perkner* led eight sessions of the regular Writing Clinic. They introduced database search techniques, especially the new *eBrary* book database, provided by EBSCO. (Read more about *eBrary* on page 17.) In addition, they talked about the MLA/APA-style formatting, documentation, writing, and formatting of college-level papers.



- Richard Chabot* invited students to explore the issues related to modern family life in light of the recent sociological research. (See Chabot's interview in this issue of the Newsletter, page 12.)

- "How to Study a Foreign Language" was an informative dialogue presented by *Julie Walker* and *Stanislav Perkner*.

- The final session of the quarter was a Conversation with several Humphreys' educators and alumni talking about studying for complex exams—e.g., Ph.D., Ed.D. or the California Bar. The panel, led by *Donna Roberts*, included UOP's *Nicole Felkins*, Editor-in-Chief of *The Pacifican*, and *Parker Shelton*, recent graduate of Laurence Drivon School of Law and the youngest California attorney. (For the graduation profile of *Parker Shelton*, go to *The Record* webpage at http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20140525/A_NEWS/405250313/-1/a_news.)



DR. RICHARD CHABOT ABOUT MARRIAGE AND FAMILY IN MODERN AMERICA

Dr. Chabot, Coordinator of the Community Studies Program, was one of the spring guest speakers participating in a Learning Center series How to Succeed in College. Here is a summary of his interesting thoughts about marriage and family. Dr. Chabot addressed these issues as a sociologist.

Are marriage and the family experiencing a crisis? The large divorce rate is alarming: roughly 50% of all first marriages do result in divorce.

"People continue to wring their hands and worry about the state of the family and marriage in the United States. Besides the large divorce rate, there's the issue of how these divorces affect the lives of the children. Studies are showing that children of single divorcees have more 'problems' than those of two-parent families. The ultimate price is paid by society, with a weakened moral structure, an economy forced to support an inherently unstable family system, and let's not even get started about what to do with all those kids having kids...."



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As a sociologist, are you worried?

"I'm *not* worried. And that has nothing to do with me being liberal. You'll find that staunch conservatives are just as likely to turn their backs on what we consider All-American Moral Ideals as anyone else. It's just that I look at more than divorce rates; there is a lot of information out there on the American family to pay attention to. It definitely shows a change occurring in America, but not necessarily for the worse."

First, how about all those divorces?

"Nobody is happy with divorce. But sometimes the only thing worse than divorce is a social force requiring the unhappy couple to stay together. The low divorce rate of the Leave-It-To-Beaver decade of the 1950s was largely illusory, there being a larger than now percentage of women wishing they could leave their husbands (but couldn't due to financial and other constraints) as well as a large number of informal separations. It's no secret that anti-depressants had a great consumer base among stay-at-home moms when Elvis was King."

What do the data say about the stability of marriages?

"Over the last decade, we have seen a reduction of divorces (from 4.0 to 3.6 per 1,000 population), but we've also seen a reduction of marriages (from 8.2 to 6.8 per 1,000). At least the two vary with each other. More importantly, studies have shown that people really want to get married, still consider marriage an important social ritual that they take very seriously, but they are going about it differently than their parents or grandparents. The age of first-marriages is going up, roughly a third of marriages now occurring to those above thirty."

It looks like all that advice, to wait until after college and getting a good job, is paying off.

"We also know that the older a couple is at first marriage, the more likely they will stay married, so look for divorce rates to go lower in coming decades. And all those divorces in the past? As you might expect, most people who divorce do remarry. While we could worry that marriage is not being taken seriously, this serial monogamy has become the norm."

What, theoretically, makes for a good and long-lasting marriage?

"First, egalitarianism seems a good thing. While on average men do less housework than their working spouses, it's also true that those working women are doing less than their parents. We just don't care so much about the state of the house anymore (the spiders in my house agree). The more a man cares, the more he shares, and that includes more than just drying the dishes. Second, waiting for those vows is good, waiting to have kids is good, but you don't have to wait for everything. While cohabitation is still under debate, sex before marriage is preferable to an early marriage just for the sex. Those who continue to yearn for the 1950s forget that lots of sex at age 17 was not so unusual back then; it's just that teens and marriage and a job just out of high school used to be standard practice. The economic and social systems of then do not compare to what we are in the middle of now. The hormones are the same, but the rules of play have changed."

What does the sociology research reveal about the link between children and parents in modern marriage?

"Children, whether in or out of wedlock, remain as important as ever. No sociologist has ever thought to support a single-parent household unless the only alternative was a violent two-parent relationship. Given the negative impact of divorce on children mixed with the increasingly popular preference of late marriage, women have consciously taken steps to reduce the number of children they do have. Teens actually lead this group."

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Are you referring to the declining teen pregnancy rate?

“Teen pregnancy is a principal area of study by both academics and the government. There is actually a lot of good information on this. A very recent study (Guttmacher Institute, 2014) shows that teen pregnancy has reduced by 51% since 1990 and teen abortion has declined by 66% since 1988. Sex education and easily-available medical advice and attention have been given credit for allowing teens to plan and make long-range decisions concerning sex and family make up.”

Let's move to another end of the generational spectrum – to the aging sandwich generation and the baby boom generation?

“If there was any one problem I see for the United States as a whole, it would be that of a growing elderly population. Middle-aged parents are already having to support their children, be it in young families or as college students, and that comes with a stagnating wage structure. Life is tough. And now we're finding that many of those baby boomers are retiring with only minimal life support to sustain them. An increasingly elderly population is coming to depend on the social if not financial support of their kids, turning today's parents into what we call the sandwich generation, being relied upon by both their kids and their geriatric elders. While of minimal impact on families right now, in another two decades we will see this phenomenon having a major impact on marriages and family life. I'm betting that when your kids meet a marriageable other in the far future, rather than ask about how they feel about kids, they'll be asking how well situated their parents are in their retirement.”

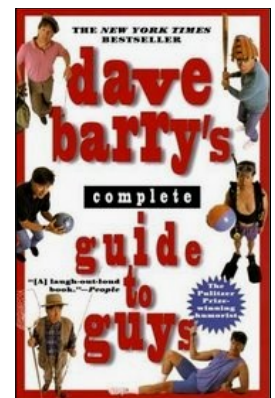
~Stanislav Perkner

AUTHORS SPOTLIGHT VOCABULARY, PLEASE, PART II By Cynthia Becerra, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies

In the Spring 2013 article on the same topic, I focused on fictional works that would help students expand their vocabulary. Of course, nonfiction selections are also wonderful ways to acquire knowledge and insight into the world around us and still expand one's vocabulary. I have one of my sons and my husband to thank for recognizing the value of nonfiction, for they loathe fiction but enjoy biographies, along with “how to” and wild life books.

Let's start with someone who is an enlightened American humorist—Dave Barry. A Pulitzer-winning author, his essays often appear in college written communication anthologies. For example, in “Guys vs. Men,” from his book *Dave Barry's Complete Guide to Guys* (1995), he carefully defines “guys” and distinguishes them from “men” by using well-chosen words in this comparison-contrast essay. To illustrate my point, consider the following quote regarding man's interest in space:

... the real reason for the existence of the Space Shuttle is that it is one humongous and spectacularly gizmo-intensive item of hardware. Guys can tinker with it practically forever. . . . and occasionally even get it to work.



Joan Didion, a National Book Award winning author, also captures American thinking in her essays. Born and raised in the Sacramento Valley, she crafts her often long and difficult-to-comprehend sentences

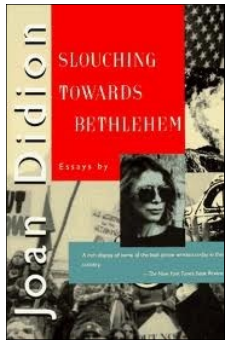
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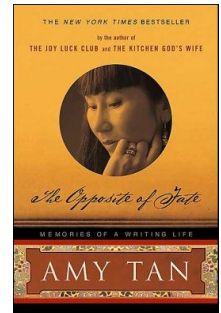
using the vocabulary of a UC Berkeley grad, as she is. From the collection *Slouching Towards Bethlehem* (1968), “On Going Home” chronicles the strangeness yet familiarity of returning home:

Paralyzed by the neurotic lassitude engendered by meeting one’s past at every turn, around every corner, inside every cupboard, I go aimlessly from room to room. . . . I close the drawer, and have another cup of coffee with my mother. We get along very well, veterans of a guerrilla war we never understood.

To grasp Didion’s point, you have to grapple with the vocabulary and involve yourself in the narrative, frequently rereading the passage. I included the final line because I recognize the metaphor of a guerrilla war and the relationship between a mother and daughter. It is a unique but revealing analogy—one that most mothers and daughters can appreciate.



Like Didion, Amy Tan has also decoded in narrative the challenges of the mother-daughter relationship. In her novels—the most popular *The Joy Luck Club* (1989)—she has focused on the bicultural experiences of the Chinese-American daughter in direct contrast to her Chinese-born mother. In recent years I have found her essays—and lectures—to be even more interesting than her novels because of her ability to translate the creative process into words that we mortals can understand. In *The Opposite of Fate: Memories of a Writing Life* (2003), she provides insight into not only herself but also



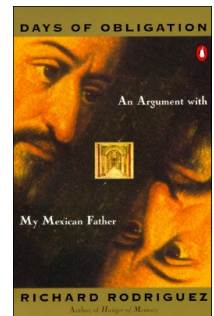
her creative origins; for example, in “The CliffsNotes Version of my Life,” she describes the litany of analyses done on her writing and her as writer:

. . . there before your very eyes is an analysis of you, your intentions, and the deeper, more subterranean meanings of your books—say, the dichotomy between cultures and two generations, or the sociopolitical concerns of immigration and assimilation.

In contrast, Tan’s motive for writing, according to this essay, is to answer one important question: “How do things happen?”

Authors like Dave Barry, Joan Didion, and Amy Tan offer unique, mind-expanding perspectives on life—in addition to our vocabularies. Other comparable writers include the following:

- 📖 Richard Rodriguez, a political commentator and writer, skillfully describes his journey to assimilation to American life and his alienation from his family and Mexican roots in his collection of essays *Days of Obligation: An Argument With My Mexican Father* (1992). A regular on the PBS show *NewsHour*, the openly gay conservative examines the evolving American identity.
- 📖 Ellen Goodman, a Pulitzer Prize winning American journalist, wrote a syndicated column until her retirement in 2010; in it she analyzed the impact of current events on changing views on topics like abortion, racism, and women’s rights.
- 📖 Father of public radio’s *A Prairie Home Companion*, Garrison Keillor simplifies complex problems, such as in “How to Write a Letter,” from his collection of essays entitled *We Are Still Married* (1989), in a charming manner, reminding us that shy people like him need to write; otherwise, they might languish in “anonymity.”
- 📖 Henry Louis Gates, Jr., a scholar and literary critic, explores racism and its effects on his life in “A Giant Step,” from his collection *Colored People: A Memoir* (1994).

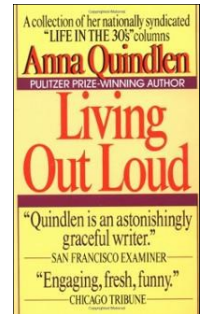


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Whether articulating how to write well or defining democracy, E. B. White, author of *Charlotte's Web* (1952), provides readers with insight into American thought during the prominent years of the "Greatest Generation." For example, in "Once More to the Lake," a narrative about the vicarious nature of the father-son relationship, he captures the timelessness of certain male-bonding rituals, such as fishing.

A columnist for the *Times*, Anna Quindlen writes about social problems, with a reserved yet palpable emotive appeal. In "Homeless," from *Living Out Loud* (1988), this award-winning author reminds us that we need to forget about the "broad strokes" of homelessness and focus on the details—like a woman named Ann who once had a home (she carries the picture of it with her in one of her many shopping bags)—to address the problem with humanity.



So pick up a book or a newspaper or click on an Internet article by one of these authors. I will bet that you will be surprised how much you enjoy it—you might even discover something that you can relate to your own life.

FROM THE NEW BOOKS ...

OUR AMERICA: A HISPANIC HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

Felipe Fernández-Armesto. *Our America: A Hispanic History of the United States*. Norton, 2014.

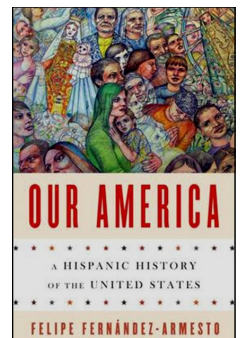
The United States is still typically seen of as an offshoot of England. This view overlooks the significance of America's Hispanic past. The boom began with the explorers and conquistadores who planted Spain's first colonies in Puerto Rico, Florida, and the Southwest and missionaries and rancheros settling California, mapping the American interior to the Rockies, and charting the Pacific Coast. During the 19th century, Anglo-America expanded west under the banner of "Manifest Destiny" and consolidated control through war with Mexico. In the following Hispanic resurgence, the peoples of Latin America overspread the continent, from the Hispanic heartland in the West to major cities such as Chicago, Miami, New York, and Boston.

"This book is not a study of immigration," writes the author, "because Anglos' understanding of their Hispanic neighbors in the United States has often suffered from representations of the Hispanic presence as a result of immigration in to a country with a culture sprung fully formed from its eastern seaboard. Hispanics belong in the entire story of the country—as part of its origin and part of every important episode in its unfolding.... Hispanics preceded the United States in what is now national territory. Their presence has been a longer part of the history of the land than that of any other intruders from across the Atlantic, including Anglo-Americans."

The author decided to "rotate the usual picture... Instead of looking at the making of the United States from the east, we see what it looks like from the south."

For Humphreys' students of immigration history, it is important to note that *Our America* is not a comprehensive study of America's past; rather, the author's goal is to stimulate new thought while challenging the prevailing Anglo-centric narrative.

The book is structured chronologically: from the story of the first European colonies and the European western expansion in the 19th century to the era of "Hispanic countercolonization" since the late 1800s.



Felipe Fernández-Armesto is the William P. Reynolds Professor of History at the University of Notre Dame. *Our America* is his latest book. His publications include *The World: A History*, *Pathfinders: A Global History of Exploration*, *The Americas: A Hemispheric History*, *Columbus*, and *Near a Thousand Tables: A History of Food*. The author discusses his latest book in this C-SPAN video: "After Words with Fernández-Armesto: *Our America*," available at <http://www.c-span.org/video/?316948-1/words-felipe-fernandezarmesto>.

FROM THE LIBRARY AND LEARNING CENTER ...

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The publishers include Oxford University Press, University of Chicago Press, Entrepreneur Press, and the American Management Association.

HUMPHREYS COLLEGE HOSTED MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT

On Tuesday, May 27, Humphreys College hosted a Meet the Candidates Night. The invitation was accepted by ten candidates for the June elections: Steve Colangelo (U.S. House of Representatives), Sol Jobrack (State Assembly), Pat Withrow (Sheriff - Coroner - Public Administrator), Jeff Tilton (County Superintendent of Schools), Jill Fritch-en and Vern Gebhardt (County Board of Education), Jerome Wil-verding (County Auditor-Controller), Christina Fugazi, Susan Lofthus, and Motecuzoma Sanchez (Stockton City Council). Each of the candidates had a chance to introduce his or her program and respond to informal questions afterwards. The public event was moderated by Don Van Noy, Humphreys College Adjunct Instructor.



COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Alumna Nicole Felkins**, A.A. in Liberal Studies, 2011, has been promoted to Editor-in-Chief of *The Pacifian*, the University of Pacific newspaper. Having started out as a copy editor in 2013, she now will be in charge of the 20-page publication, which has served its college community since 1908. Majoring in history and philosophy, Nicole plans to graduate from UOP in 2015. Kudos, Nicole!
- **CBEST & CSET Math Refresher** is scheduled for Saturday, July 12, from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM. Sponsored by the Credential Coordinator Donna Roberts, this workshop offers preparation for both exams with a nominal fee of \$25. All that you need to do is fill out the registration form, which is available from your academic advisor or from Professor Roberts, and submit your \$25 payment to the Fiscal Office. Don't delay. Reserve your seat today!

Congratulations 2014 Graduates!



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Humphreys College Newsletter, June 2014

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