

Humphreys College

NEWSLETTER SUPPLEMENT

SUMMER QUARTER

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MEET YOUR TEACHER **LINDA RAHMOLLER:** ***I HAVE ENJOYED MY 30-YEAR TENURE AT THE COLLEGE***

In the course of the last thirty years, Professor Linda Rahmoller has taught thousands of Humphreys students. Her first courses included Keyboarding, Word Processing, Administrative, Legal, and Medical Procedures, Records Management, and Professional Development. Today, 120 quarters later, her curriculum includes not only Word Processing and Records Management but also Business Communications, Supervisory Management, Administrative Procedures, Computer Applications, and Spreadsheets.



“I grew up in Tillamook, Oregon. My father was fourth-generation dairy farmer; consequently, I love all things dairy. Additionally, my father was also self-employed in road construction and the logging industry. My mother is a registered nurse; she lives in Portland. I have a sister who is retired and a brother who is a software engineer in Portland. I am married and we were privileged to have a son who unfortunately passed away when he was ten. Professionally, prior to teaching, my primary experience was in the medical field. I worked at Washington University Medical Center and its affiliates while I lived in St. Louis. I was employed by the San Joaquin County Office of Education when I moved to Stockton. Academically, I earned my AA degree from Concordia College in Portland, Oregon, and my BS in Human Relations and Organizational Behavior from the University of San Francisco. Soon after I completed my baccalaureate experience, I joined Humphreys College.”

How did you find Humphreys College...? Did the College find you?

“A neighbor, Sandra Fowler, who worked in the Fiscal Office, told me about the opening. I interviewed for the job and the rest as they say is history. My interviewer was Rowena Walker.”

Who were your first closest colleagues?

“Rowena Walker, Cindy Becerra, and Wilma Okamoto-Vaughn... One of my fondest memories is the boat races we held in the courtyard, although my department never won. Dr. Humphreys was the official master of ceremony. Additionally, I remember the graduation ceremony when Dr. Humphreys announced that we have received accreditation for our bachelor’s degrees from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.”

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An important part of your courses is computers and their office applications. What was the state of technology at the beginning of your Humphreys career?

“Room 6 had electric *Selectric* typewriters without any correcting feature capabilities. Additionally, Room 6 had dedicated Word Processors from IBM (*Displaywriters*) and of course, 10-key adding machines. The computers in Room 5 had *WordPerfect*, *Lotus 1-2-3*, and *dBase*.”

How did you cope with the arrival of personal computers to your college office and classroom?



“Technology and the classroom continually presents an interesting dichotomy. Students want instruction on the most-up-to-date technology, but the Valley and businesses in general are usually two versions behind the most recent software releases. In my experience, however, learning new software becomes more intuitive with each update. The graphic user interface provides commonality among the releases, and the descriptive tabs on the Ribbon also help guide you as you complete tasks. The Help feature has also become easier to work with. I encourage everyone not to be afraid to experiment and fail. I always learn more when I struggle and need to apply some critical thinking skills.”

Obviously, technology has also enabled education to expand beyond the traditional classroom environment with online offerings.

“Although I recognize that the online environment is not the most effective learning modality for some subjects (math and speech) and some students because of the shift from the teacher-centered to a learner-centered environment, it is my assertion it offers opportunities for the full-time student who also has family and full-time work responsibilities. The convenience of 24-7 access lends itself well for students in the 21st century. One aspect of the online environment that I particularly enjoy are the forums. Some students have an introverted personality such as myself; this gives us the platform to share our views and contribute to the classroom discussions.”

What are the main challenges and opportunities regarding classroom and office technology?

“The two opportunities that immediately come to mind are the ease in which academic research papers can be created using Word and the plethora of research data available on the Internet. However, these two opportunities can become challenges if used incorrectly. The tools are only as effective as the user.”

Where do you see the most serious problems challenging your students today—and tomorrow—concerning business administration?

“A college education is an important investment in one’s financial future; however, gaining employment can be a challenging, daunting prospect in our current economy. However, it is my assertion during economic downturns that it is harder for someone who lacks a degree to find

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employment, so perseverance is the key. Developing skills and competencies in acquiring knowledge, thinking critically, communicating effectively, and contributing to a team coupled with hard skills will aid in the process.”

How to be successful in your courses? What would be Linda Rahmoller’s *Ten Rules*?

- “1. Come to class on time and do not leave early.
2. Read the assigned chapters before coming to class.
3. Complete assigned homework and take the scheduled examinations.
4. Respect the classroom environment including the teacher and your peers.
5. Take advantages of opportunities for extra credit.
6. Inquire about how the skills you are gaining will translate into your career success.
7. If you are having issues with the class, please make an appointment to see me.
8. Laugh at my jokes.
9. Communicate, communicate, and communicate—I cannot assist you if I am not aware of your issues.
10. There are no stupid questions; all questions are welcome.”

Several years ago, you completed your master’s research in Education with a specialization in Post-secondary and Adult Education from Capella University. Please summarize your research results and lessons taught...

“The sphere of adult learning has become more diversified. Malcom Knowles, one of the early leaders in the field, posits several generalizations about adult learners including high levels of motivation to learn, the desire to understand how the course content will benefit them, the need to participate in decision making in the classroom setting, and extensive life experience that classroom instructors need to “tap” into. More research is now being conducted on the affective domain. John Dirkx focuses on the role that emotions play in the learning process because of their strong ability to either hinder or stimulate the learning process. This research is important because many college students seek entry into the post-secondary arena through an emotional life crisis involving family or work instability. Research has also demonstrated that the brain does not become less flexible as we age, and mental exercises and exposure to novel experiences allow the brain to remain vital.”

What do you do for fun?

“I am a movie buff, except for the horror genre. I just recently enjoyed watching *The Book Thief* and *The One-Hundred Foot Journey*. Summer is not usually a prime time for my viewing, so I anxiously await the films that will come out in December in preparation for the Academy Awards. As the daughter of a WWII veteran, I especially loved the HBO miniseries *Band of Brothers* (Stephen Ambrose) and companion piece *The Pacific*. I also enjoy the PBS series *Downton Abbey*. During the summer my readings consist of popular novels; I especially take pleasure in works of David Baldacci, James Patterson, Patricia Cornwell, and Barbara Kingsolver. My next serious read will be *John Adams* by David McCullough.

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Hiking has become a favorite activity. Six months ago, it was Leavitt Peak in the Eastern Sierras. The views were breathtaking, but the recovery time took three days.

Additionally, I love traveling. During the June break it was a trip to Death Valley and I always enjoy trips back to my home state of Oregon.”

A final word?

“I have enjoyed my 30-year tenure at the College. I am privileged to work with my colleagues. I feel that they epitomize the mission of Humphreys and work tirelessly towards those efforts. Being associated with an educational institution that provides opportunities for San Joaquin County constituents is something I am proud of. President Humphreys’ comment that we are an institution of opportunity is an observation that resonates with me personally and also corresponds with my educational philosophy.”



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