

Humphreys College

Newsletter



DECEMBER 2015

FALL QUARTER

FROM THE LIBERAL ARTS DEPARTMENT ...

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

By Cynthia S. Becerra, Dean of Instruction, Chair

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As Fall Quarter comes to an end along with 2015, it is a good time to look back on your academic progress and performance for this year. Did you do as well as you wanted to in that challenging math class? Were you better at managing your time to address the demands of your online class this year? Or did you find yourself procrastinating and uploading your assignment at 11:54 PM and praying that it was accepted—even though knowing it wasn't your best but at least it was done?



If your answers to the preceding questions were not the ones that you had hoped for when you did this at the end of 2014, then perhaps you need to re-evaluate and reflect. Consider the following self-reflection questions:

1. What class activity/assignment did I enjoy most? Which one did I enjoy least? (Don't forget the "why" part.)
2. What were the obstacles that I encountered this year that affected my academic progress? How did I address them? Was I successful?
3. What is the most important thing that I learned this year? How did that come about?
4. What can I do to improve my progress and performance? (Think about question 2 as it relates to successful strategies that you used to address obstacles in your academic progress.)
5. Where do I want to be this time next year on my journey to completing my degree?

According to the online Oxford Dictionary, self-reflection is "a meditation or serious thought about one's character, actions, and motives." Other sources add purposeful and directed to the basic definition of self-reflection. But however you define it, it involves critical analysis of your own thoughts on your experiences, therefore, requiring that you become a critical thinker. Essentially, as you gain knowledge about academic subjects included in courses like Deviant Behavior, California Literature, the Supreme Court in American Life, Modern World Issues, Human Biology, and Intensive Grammar (all courses offered Winter 2016), you learn about yourself. So a big part of becoming educated is learning about you!

So let's reflect on that!

In ENGL 101, students are introduced to reflective writing and the following essay is from my Tuesday night class. A portion of the writing prompt states: "Think of reflective writing as a stimulating conversation in which you seek to expose—and perhaps question—your readers' attitudes and beliefs as well as your own."

Prof. Leslie Walton

STUDENT VOICES: OLD SOUL IN A NEW AGE WORLD

By Teresa Aguilar, Student, ENGL 101

Music has always held a special place in my heart. There is something about a song that will trigger certain memories: Thoughts of falling in love with your significant other when you hear "your" song, singing along to that special hymn that never fails to bring tears to your eyes after hearing a sermon at church that truly touched your soul, reading the lyrics to a lullaby your cherished parent would sing to you as a child....

Music always seemed to have a profound effect on people's lives. However, lyrics used to mean something; they were mostly positive and had a way of uniting people, unlike the music we hear on the radio today.

I like a lot of genres. My favorite are oldies and old-school (music spanning from the 1950s through the 1990s). Given that I gravitate towards older music, I am often surprised by the songs that get played on the radio, or what is considered to be mainstream music. While I understand that the music standards in earlier decades were different, the lyrics were not quite as vulgar as they are now.

The current Number One on Billboard's Hot 100 music chart is "The Hills" by The Weeknd. I honestly do not understand how this song could be played on the radio, much less be liked so much by the masses with lyrics like:

*I only f**k you when it's half past five
The only time I'd ever call you mine
I only love it when you touch me, not feel me
When I'm f**ked up, that's the real me*

When I looked up what the Number One was forty-five years ago, "I'll Be There" by the Jackson 5 came up. Their song lyrics are different:

*I'll be there to comfort you,
Build my world of dreams around you,
I'm so glad that I found you.
I'll be there with a love that's strong,
I'll be your strength, I'll keep holdin' on.*

Both lyrics want different things. In The Weeknd's song, the words indicate that the singer's main focus is about pleasure in the moment. In the Jackson 5's song, the lyrics indicate they care about the person in the long-term sense. In fact, the text also says:

*If you should ever find someone new,
I know he better be good to you
'Cause if he doesn't, I'll be there.*

What worries me about today's lyrics is the way in which relations are presented. At what point did innuendo get thrown out the window? Has this new generation really become so in touch with its sexual liberation that it has decided to cut out all the small talk and get straight to the point? It appears our youth has lost the discretion people born in earlier decades were able to learn with time. Everything now is so much more

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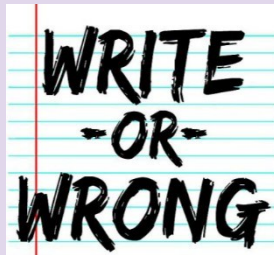
provocative, from the clothing, to the movies, and sadly, the music! It appears they are in a rush to get through their younger years instead of savoring those sweet moments of innocence and taking their time in new experiences.

In no way am I trying to judge anyone who likes and/or creates this music. I enjoy quite a few songs that are on the Top 40 and Hot 100 charts. They are catchy and often have a great hook. However, no longer does mainstream music include great hits like “Put Your Head On My Shoulder” by Paul Anka (1959), “Baby Love” by The Supremes (1964), “If You Leave Me Now” by Chicago (1976), “Saving All My Love For You” by Whitney Houston (1985), and “I’ll Make Love To You” by Boyz II Men (1994)—songs that invoke wonderful feelings and can take us back to a special moment in time, even if just for a fleeting moment.

It is something I hope today’s artists will venture to do—to recapture what once was so fulfilling about music, so the younger generations will be able to create beautiful memories of their own without having to go out and purchase the edited version of their favorite songs: Uplifting memories like slow dancing with your crush versus grinding against them to the latest hip hop song; being inspired to go out and change the world for the better instead of just chasing paper (money), fame, and “women”; wanting to find an everlasting love instead of casual flings....

Music has a way of setting the tone of what is socially acceptable. I hope we will see a trend of music motivating people to have respect for themselves and others, while creating memories they can share with future generations.

October 2015



Question: *What do you think about split infinitives? Do I deserve a lower grade for it?*

Dean Cynthia Becerra:

“To be or not to be” does not have a split infinitive and is one of the most quoted lines from Shakespeare’s plays. And I think that Hamlet said it perfectly. However, when I hear the voice over for the original Star Trek series—“To boldly go where no man has gone before”—, I am bothered by that split infinitive—“to boldly go.” Wouldn’t the passage read a bit more smoothly if the speaker had placed boldly after go? To some, the brief split, as illustrated, is not a writing error; in fact, I typically do not lower a grade for that momentary lapse. However, when the extended split occurs—for example, “to quickly, smoothly, and quietly exit the room”—I am concerned that the writer does not know the difference between a verb and a verbal. So the extended split infinitive does bother this instructor and so would be cause for a lower grade.

Dean Jess Bonds:

Splitting your infinitives is fine. In fact, sometimes it’s preferred. Just ask Captain Kirk, who endeavored “to boldly go where no man has gone before.” That sounds a lot better than “boldly to go” anywhere. Sometimes, when you put that adverb on either side of the infinitive, your language sounds stodgy. Besides, lots of things have split that used to be unified – the atom, the banana, the Beatles. And we’ve survived them all. Would you rather eat pea soup or split pea soup? So, *to succinctly sum up*, I say *to occasionally split infinitives is to clearly demonstrate* control of what you want *to purposefully write*.

FROM THE COMMUNITY STUDIES PROGRAM ...

The students of CS101, in conjunction with the Humphreys College Academic Council, hope you will join them in giving the homeless of Stockton

Warm Feet

Yes, warm feet is all it takes to make someone smile. Homeless, broke, and getting by one day at a time. For all our problems and pressing needs, most of us can be thankful for having a warm home at night and clean socks in the morning. Such basic necessities make all the difference in getting through the day, and that's all we're asking from you. Not a large donation, not even a full hour of your time, just a pair of thick, warm socks. They're often referred to as "white gold" by those on the street, the means to keep feet warm when there's frost in the air but no shelter to duck into. Won't it be nice to know at the end of the year that in some small way you gave someone the gift of warmth and, if only briefly, the joy of a smile?



Buy a pair (or more) and *drop them by your friendly Humphreys College receptionist, professor, or librarian today.* The socks will be collected together and donated to the St. Mary's Interfaith Dining Room and Community Services in downtown Stockton. And if you happen to have a pair of shoes in your closet that will no longer be worn, bring those in as well. Let's make this Christmas the warmest ever!



For more information contact Richard Chabot at 235-2930.

FROM THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ...

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

By Shana Brucia, Chair

Criminal Justice Program



The Criminal Justice Department Program has been developed to provide students with critical thinking, report writing, and public speaking skills necessary to become competent peace officers / probation officers. It seeks to provide practical and theoretical training through hands-on classroom activities taught by law enforcement and probation professionals.

Probation Officer Core Course (Probation Academy)

The Probation Officer Core Academy will be offered to Humphreys' students beginning January 7, 2016, through June 24, 2016. This Academy is offered by BSCC – The State of California and is a 212 hour course. The course focuses on a multitude of topics that will be covered through written and practical applications. Hands-on training for report writing and oral interview skills are covered, as well as the following: Juvenile and adult law, federal and state law, municipal codes, statutes, case law, interviewing and interrogation techniques, court testimony, and much, much more. Once the student passes the academy, he or she will receive a diploma issued by Humphreys College on behalf of STC, which never expires.

The Academy is split into two quarters. During the first quarter (Winter 2016), the student will take CRIM 224; during the second half of the Academy (Spring 2016), the student will take CRIM 225. The fee per quarter is \$1,397; a total fee is \$2,794, which your financial aid will pay for as part of your Criminal Justice degree plan. There is also a book / shirt material fee of approximately \$200, which is covered by book vouchers. Cadets will receive CPR training. Once the cadet has passed the test, he or she will receive a CPR card that is valid for two years.

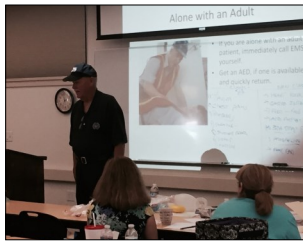
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A graduation ceremony for the cadets will be held on Friday, June 24, 2016. If you are interested in enrolling into the Probation Academy Crim 224 starting Winter Quarter, please contact Shana Brucia at 209-329-9054.



Criminal Justice Club



On Saturday, September 12, the Criminal Justice Club – Beta Alpha Sigma hosted a CPR Certification Course for the faculty and staff of Humphreys College. Nine participants were certified: Dean Cynthia Becerra, Professor Leslie Walton, Les Boone, Chris Boone, Julia Hayhurst, Josephine Torres, Armando Huerta, Chia Xiong, and Po Bounmivilay. Congratulations!



Criminal Justice Department Chair News

On October 6, Lt. Sierra Brucia alongside other members of the 2015 Leadership Lodi cut the ribbon for the new Book Eaters Club at the Lodi Library. That night they also received two Proclamations from the Lodi City of Commerce and the City of Lodi Council for their amazing work, fundraising and volunteerism on the rebuild of the children's center in the Lodi Library.



Leadership Lodi has been designed to inspire and motivate Lodi area citizens to achieve higher levels of leadership responsibility. The ten-month program provides participants with the necessary information to understand the complexities of the Lodi community. Each year, the graduating class chooses a project that benefits a local non-profit. The project fosters teamwork and leadership skills through organization, fund-raising, and manual labor.



On October 23-25, my family and I participated in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer – American Cancer Society, in Bakersfield, California. The total raised for the making stride event in Bakersfield was \$24,141.48. We have been involved with the American Cancer Society for the past 15 years; I have been the Volunteer Event Coordinator for the Bakersfield region for the past four years. Cancer has affected my life tremendously as I have lost my Mom, maternal great-grandma, maternal great-grandpa, maternal grandma, maternal grandpa, paternal grandpa, paternal grandma, and several friends. I am dedicated to making a difference and finding a cure.

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As you already know, I am the Vice-President of the Lodi Police Officer's Foundation and on November 4, at the City Council meeting, I accepted a check in the sum of \$8,133, on behalf of The Police Officers Foundation, from The Lodi Citizens in Action. It was my honor to address the council and the members of The Lodi Citizens in Action group. The money they raised through donations from the citizens of the Lodi community from the Law Enforcement Appreciation Day held on September 26, 2015, at Lodi Lake will be used for new equipment for the Lodi Police Officers. The Lodi Citizens in Action group formally announced that it will be doing an annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Day every year to show their love and support of the Lodi Police Department.



Criminal Justice Student Updates

Congratulations to the following students who recently obtained jobs or internships in the Criminal Justice field:

- ◆ Stephanie Barrios - Police Cadet, Lodi Police Department
- ◆ Hunter Stone - Sheriff Deputy Trainee, Sacramento County Sheriff Department
- ◆ Katie Romanek - Criminal Justice Department Aide, Humphreys College

STUDENT VOICES: FROM STOCKTON TO WASHINGTON, D.C. By Tejpal Baniwal, Criminal Justice Student

In summer, I was given the opportunity to intern at The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights as a SALDEF SikhLEAD intern. I learned about current executive and administrative efforts at the federal level to help improve the nation's justice system. I was exposed to social justice work on a national level while working at the nation's premier civil rights coalition of over 200 national organizations that promote and protect civil and human rights. Concurrently, as a SikhLEAD intern, I organized "Langar on the Hill 2015,"



Tejpal Baniwal with Tony Cardenas (D-San Fernando Valley), the first Latino elected to represent the San Fernando Valley in the United States Congress

the largest congressional event in Sikh-American history. The event, which was to help raise awareness about the Sikh community in America, attracted over 350 congressional staffers and 18 members of Congress. I saw myself representing all Sikh Americans when I was interviewed by *The Wilson Quarterly* and was also seen on MSNBC during a rally to Restore the VRA in Roanoke, Virginia. This internship not only opened many doors for me but also helped me grow as an individual. I highly recommend that every student do an internship that relates to his or her interests.

FROM THE BUSINESS DEPARTMENT...

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

By Jason K. Wolins, Chair

THOSE GHOULISH OFFICE PERSONALITIES!

I know we are a few weeks past Halloween, but let's think about whether you may experience some ghouls and goblins in your office.

Fergus Mellon wrote an October 29, 2015, article in USA TODAY, p. 3B, entitled "Ghoulish Office Personalities We All Fear."

He considers office ghouls to be "unhealthy personalities who make an already challenging workplace something to be feared," and noted they come in four types.

Think about whether you experience any of these where you work:

- ***The Werewolf!***

- **Who are those guys?**

Those types tend to be hyper-aggressive—they shout and intimidate to get their way.

- **What's their downside?**

This behavior is shortsighted and there is a good chance it will lead to long-term failure. It could seriously damage one's business relationships and reputation. (Ask yourself, would you want to work with or for one of these?)

- **What's their fix?**

Work on that Emotional Intelligence! Emotional Intelligence (EI) is the ability to manage and control emotions. It is the ability to perceive, control and evaluate emotions so you channel your work enthusiasm in a healthier manner.

- ***The Zombie!***

- **Who are those guys?**

Those people are at the other end of the spectrum from werewolves. They tend to be passive and let the work world drift by. When opportunities present themselves, they tend to let those prospects pass, often with "Why bother?" attitudes.

- **What's their downside?**

The behavior may seem harmless, but this lethargy and lack of commitment could harm morale and the organization's overall performance. This affects everyone in the organization.

- **What's their fix?**

The good news—this may be an easier fix than for werewolves. The remedy: Start to care. Zombies need to see if they can enjoy their jobs. They need to see if they can try to care about their organization's mission, team members, etc. If they cannot, it is time for a change—this could run from merely changing their roles in their firms to complete career changes.

- ***The Headless Horseman!***

- **Who are those guys?**

They are leaders who do not take responsibility. They lack accountability—it's always someone else's fault.



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- **What's their downside?**

Not being accountable for decisions and putting the burden on subordinates to perform lacks fairness, and pushes down morale and performance. Workers who are blamed by managers for failing are not likely to take future risks.

- **What's their fix?**

Well, my Headless Horsemen, pause and think about what you are doing. Then, get back in there and provide true leadership. Doing this may take some reading of leadership literature or hiring a professional "coach." Gain workers' confidence that you will support them. The potential results: Better morale; better performance; and workers who are more willing to take risks.

- ***The Politician!***

- **Who are those guys?**

They are people who put others down or take credit for others' work.

- **What's their downside?**

They may get ahead by politically "campaigning," but at what cost? How about impairment to both human relationships and collaboration in the organization for starters.

- **What's their fix?**

Very simple: Stop the political campaigns and start the work!

So, let's put a lid on these ghouls—at least until next Halloween.

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

On November 19, the California Society of Certified Public Accountants (CalCPA) (Central Valley Chapter) held its annual student-faculty night banquet for accounting students from four community colleges (San Joaquin Delta, Modesto, Columbia, and Merced) and three four-year colleges (Humphreys, Pacific, and CSU Stanislaus).

Eleven Humphreys students and Business Department Chair Jason Wolins attended the event in Stockton:



(Left to right)
 Thomas Wagner;
 Selina Valdez;
 Stephany Cerros;
 Jasmin Del Prado;
 Zeeshan Mahmood;
 Sylvia Ramirez;
 Justin Green;
 William Holmes;
 Monyeita Davis;
 Jason Wolins
 (faculty member);
 Sophanary Sok; and
 Tahmina Salehi.

FROM THE COURT REPORTING DEPARTMENT...

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

By Kay Reindl, Chair

CONGRATULATIONS TO COURT REPORTING SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Court Reporting faculty members recently selected their annual scholarship recipients. Each candidate is deserving for various reasons, but both exhibit a dedication to their chosen profession and the ability to succeed in completing the program and in the profession.

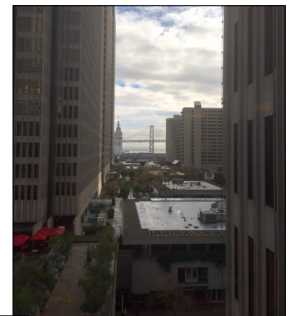
Congratulations, Ladies!

- * Kathryn Serpa, Court Reporting Department Scholarship
- * Whitney Adair, George and Maria Stahl Scholarship

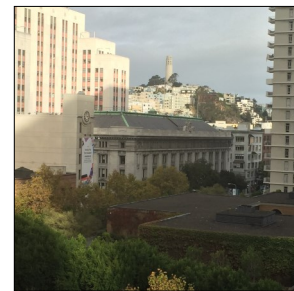
**ALUMNI VOICES ...****A FEW REASONS TO CONSIDER COURT REPORTING AS A CAREER**

I recently queried Humphreys' court reporting alumni about their chosen profession. Here are some of their comments:

- ☐ *I was attracted to the potential of finishing college sooner than traditional students.*
- ☐ *I saw how successful my sister (a court reporter) was, and I wanted to be just like that.*
- ☐ *I am in a well-respected profession with good pay, and I see an opportunity to move anywhere and get a job.*
- ☐ *The flexible schedule enables me to volunteer and be very involved with my children's activities.*
- ☐ *In my work environment, I am surrounded by educated professionals and I'm always learning about random things that no one else knows about.*
- ☐ *It is rewarding and very interesting to be a part of a very important process in the judicial field--and to be privy to people's very personal lives.*
- ☐ *I was drawn to the opportunity to travel and decide my own workload. Also, an opportunity to learn new technologies and provide a helpful service to others (CART Reporting) attracted me. The chance to be a part of the legal system in a very specific way without having to go to law school motivated me.*
- ☐ *I love learning something new every day and going on new adventures in different places with different people on every job.*



A few typical views when taking a job in the Bay Area



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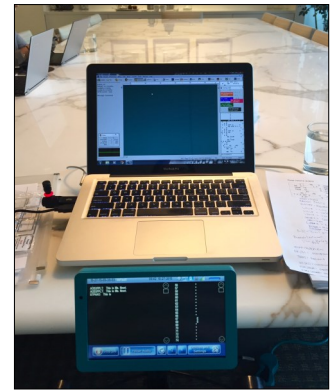
- ❑ *I love being my own boss and working from home in my jammies while editing.*
- ❑ *I love the challenge of trying to get just a little better each day.*
- ❑ *I earn a great income and am constantly learning new things. It's never the same job day in and day out. As a freelancer, I make my own schedule.*
- ❑ *The flexibility, being able to learn new things constantly and challenge myself, and the potential to make great money immediately out of school.*



The innovative LightSpeed writer, Microsoft's Surface Pro Tablet, and a speaker phone. The perfect setup for a multiple attorney deposition with 15 additional attorneys participating via telephone.



Court Reporting Central—home office set up with laptop, iPad, and one large monitor. This reporter has it all—and it's all sitting on a standup desk.



Gemini writer with LCD, laptop, conference table—the set up for multiple attorney depositions



The Gemini Infinity Ergonomic writer with LCD screen. Many colors to choose from.

FROM THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DEPARTMENT...

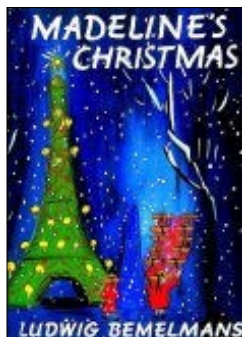
NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

By Pam Wood, Chair

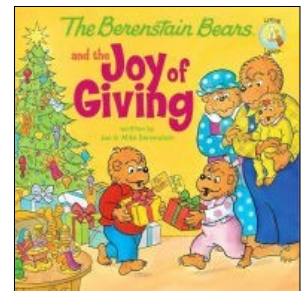
The days are shorter and the weather is cold! "How will my children spend their time?" Why not curl up together and read a good book? Most of us, young and old, treasure the joy, freshness, and excitement that can only be found in children's books. Here is a list for you to share with the children in your life as you explore adventures which can only be found between the covers of a good book.

Christmas Books

- 📖 *A Charlie Brown Christmas* by Charles Schulz
- 📖 *Guess How Much I Love You?* by Lewis, Kim
- 📖 *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* by Dr. Suess



- 📖 *If You Take a Mouse to the Movies* by Laura Numeroff
- 📖 *Madeline's Christmas* by Ludwig Bemelmans
- 📖 *Santa's Stuck* by Rhonda Green
- 📖 *The Berenstain Bears and the Joy of Giving* by Jan Berenstain
- 📖 *The Littlest Angel* by Charles Tazewell
- 📖 *The Spirit of Christmas* by Nancy Tillman
- 📖 *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* by Clement Moore



FROM THE MODESTO CAMPUS ...

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

By Carrie Castillon, Campus Director

The students and faculty were pleased to have Cynthia Becerra, Dean of Instruction, on the Modesto Campus for a “Meet the Dean” reception. Dean Becerra shared information about her favorite classes she has taught in the past as well as her advice on what it takes to be a successful student. “You need to have perseverance,” she relayed.



Julie Walker, Modesto Admissions Counselor, presented “Classroom Etiquette for the Modern World”: “Don’t put anything on social media that you wouldn’t be comfortable having your grandmother read!” Another guest speaker was Dr. Stanislav Perkner, Director of the Library and Learning Center; his presentation was about the “Anatomy of Your Online Course.” Shana Brucia, Criminal Justice Department Chair, conducted an information session on the college Probation Academy. She emphasized the importance of this incredible opportunity for students to earn a supplemental type certificate.

For the fall quarter, we were getting down to the specifics with two focused workshops for our quarterly writing series. Dr. Raymond Harter, Modesto adjunct professor, carefully guided the students through “Identifying and Nurturing the Rare and Effective Topic Sentence.” Lorraine Doria, adjunct instructor, gave detailed instructions with “Please Verify: The Purposeful Works-cited Page.” Our writing workshop series continues to be successful and beneficial to the students.

Kim Petersen, Modesto adjunct instructor, provided the PS 210 Mass Media and Society class with a personal view of the media with two very recognized community guest speakers. KAT Country radio host, DJ Walker, discussed the basics of advertising strategies with listeners and how their morning “pledge of allegiance” segment with local elementary schools has garnered state recognition. Jeff Jardine, award winning reporter for the *Modesto Bee*, shared what the elements of a great story are and how to break national news without compromising reporters’ integrity. Both guest speakers discussed how the Internet has impacted their industries and their professions.

The third “Luncheon Logic” seminar was presented by Linda Mottison, full-time faculty at the Modesto Campus. She discussed “The Flu Shot Controversy.” This was another workshop focused on exploring the world of science. Lorraine Doria wrapped up the quarter with “Destress with Yoga”; this annual seminar discusses and demonstrates anti-stress techniques for the busy college student.

THE INTERFAITH PANEL IN MODESTO
“WHO SAYS WE’RE DIFFERENT?”

By Dr. Raymond Harter, Adjunct Professor, Modesto Campus

We have all heard some form of the old joke: “A priest, a rabbi, and a minister...” It capitalizes on stereotypical aspects popularly related to one of the faiths. The joke is only effective if the teller and the audience share a belief or at least acknowledge common labeling attributed to a specific faith.

Last month I participated in a public panel discussion organized by the Stanislaus County Interfaith Council (SCIFC) with the topic, “Who Says We’re Different? Religious Stereotypes: Dispelling Myths and Finding Common Ground.” The other panelists represented four faiths from the county: Lori Wong, a practicing Buddhist and leader

of Insight Meditation Central Valley (IMCV), Thomas Elrod, an elder and active member of One Church (Christian) in Modesto (formerly Bethel Church) and past president of the Interfaith Council, Rabbi Andra Greenwald of Congregation Beth Shalom (CBS) in Modesto, and Imam Ahmed Kayello who has been at the Islamic Center of Modesto for ten years. The organizer and moderator of the panel was Mark Haskett, an author and graphic designer, who earned his degree in philosophy; he practiced Christianity until embracing the Jewish faith at CBS. All of the panel members have interacted with all the faiths in Stanislaus County (and beyond).

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The panel was held at the main Stanislaus County Library. About one hundred and fifty members of the public attended. They submitted written questions and were also encouraged to stand and present questions during the debate. The panelists receiving most questions and comments were Imam Kayello and Rabbi Greenwald; they related to the political and religious issues surrounding Middle Eastern populations and how faiths such as Islam, Judaism, and Christianity differ. They also discussed the sad events of terrorism that are all too prevalent.

Rabbi Greenwald responded to inquiries concerning the many sects of Judaism and some geography-based differences in traditions, such as being Kosher, wearing the Kippa, holidays and daily practices, and the role of women as religious leaders. Lori Wong talked about the purpose of meditation, Buddhism and historical and geographical influences which bear upon present day practices.

Imam Kayello informed the audience about Islam and how it differs from some media depictions and erroneous beliefs. The imam extended an invitation to visit the Modesto mosque and meet the members. He also informed that his mosque was hosting the nineteenth annual SCIFC Thanksgiving feast at the Modesto Centre Plaza. The panel pointed out that there are many opportunities to meet and interact with community members throughout the year.

When teaching about Great Religions of the World, I attempt to bring our Humphreys community to visit as many places of worship as time allows. I believe it offers our students an opportunity to develop a better understanding of spiritual and philosophical principles of all major faiths. The first step in combating prevalent generalities relating to faith practices, the history of any religion or prejudices concerning any aspect of the faith is to acknowledge the diversity of beliefs and practices respectfully. Then, and only then, even the old joke about a rabbi, a priest, and a minister could make more sense.

MANAGING YOUR FINANCIAL HEALTH (I)

SHAUNA BENNETT ABOUT CREDIT AND CREDIT AGENCIES

*The world of credit is a confusing place. And it is really important to understand it at a young age. It is never too late to figure it out. Who keeps track of my credit history, anyway? Do I really need to be checking my credit all the time? How do I manage it all? These are just a few questions that most people, including students, need to have answered at some point in their lives. **Shauna Bennett**, a business professor on the Modesto campus, has shed some light on this mysterious yet mundane topic. In this first installment, Professor Bennett discusses the basics of credit and credit agencies; in the next issue, she will follow it up with how to get out of debt fast—and unscathed.*

Why are credit reports so important?

Shauna Bennett: Credit scores can affect more than you realize: potential job opportunities, interest rates, as well as car and home insurance rates. A credit report helps you stay on top of your money and keep track of your financial situation. The credit companies calculate your credit score based on several factors:

- ◆ 30% amounts owed
- ◆ 35% payment history
- ◆ 10% new credit
- ◆ 10% credit mix
- ◆ 15% length of credit history

What does FICO stand for?

FICO is an acronym for Fair Isaac Corporation. It developed the credit scoring model.

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What number would be considered a good credit rating?

The credit companies also have exact numbers for that:

- ◆ 740-850 is Excellent
- ◆ 680-740 is Good
- ◆ 620-680 is Acceptable
- ◆ 550-620 is Subprime
- ◆ 300-550 is Poor

What exactly is on a person's credit report?

A credit report includes a person's name, address, social security number, as well as a person's date of birth and employment history. It also contains a complete history of your lenders, all accounts that you have opened, your credit limits, account balances and—perhaps most importantly—your payment history. A credit report also includes the history of any bankruptcies, foreclosures, wage attachments, and so on.

I have always heard that when your credit is checked, your credit score might go down. Is that true?

Yes, it could go down a few points.

Why is that? It doesn't really make any sense.

Actually, it does. For example, when you are being checked for credit because you want to buy a car, the credit agencies see that you are about to embark on a journey with more debt! You are *punished* for that, in a sense.

How can one's credit be improved?

There are several ways to do this. First of all, check your credit scores through all three major credit tracking companies: Equifax, TransUnion, and Experian. Each company focuses on a different aspect of a person's credit, so it is smart to check all three at least once a year. Make sure everything on your record is accurate. If there is anything that does not look right, contact the company and dispute it.

What about transferring your balances from high-interest cards to low-interest cards? This is really tempting.

I understand the temptation to do this, but it looks bad to creditors. If this has to be done, then keep the old accounts open. It looks better to have long-standing established accounts than new ones. It is also good if a person has different types of credit like a car loan as well as a bank line of credit. It looks good if you are able to manage multiple accounts at once.

What does it mean to reduce your debt-to-credit ratio?

You want your debt-to-credit ratio to be about 30%. In other words, if your limit on a credit card is \$1,000, do not charge more than \$300. Apply this to all of your credit accounts. A good technique to help you with this is to ask your credit card company to increase your limit. This will ultimately lower your debt-to-credit ratio.

Are you saying I should spend more on my credit card?

No! Do not spend more. Simply get the rate raised. The ideal thing would be to get your rate increased, continue using your credit card, but **ONLY** spend as much as you can pay off at the end of the month.

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Any other words of wisdom? I wish I would have been told all of this when I was younger!

Yes, a couple of things. To get a good reputation in the world of credit, you need to appear stable. A great way to do this is to buy a home and get married. If you are reluctant to do those two things, at least be sure that you do not move around frequently. Stay in one place for a while. It will make you look good.

~Julie Walker

MODESTO CAMPUS & COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

- ❑ What amazing students we have on the Modesto campus! The SOC 100 class sponsored a canned-food drive for Thanksgiving. Our aim was to fill the two barrels that were delivered by the Modesto Gospel Mission. These were used by the MGM to fill grocery boxes for families in need. The SOC 100 class is also sponsoring a Doggy-Kitty drive through the Wags & Whiskers Rescue Shelter, a no-kill shelter in Modesto. This is ongoing through the end of the fall quarter. All items will be delivered to the shelter just before Christmas.



- ❑ **Let's Think about It: Does Humphreys College Need a Mascot?** In his Written Communications class, Dr. Raymond Harter asked students to write a paragraph on the following topic: "Humphreys College Needs an Appropriate Mascot." The topic was presented as a proposition that the student should support or reject. Here is one of several interesting responses:

- * *The students of Humphreys College need a relatable mascot. The butterfly would make an amazing mascot because it is able to accept the changes in life. A lot of Humphreys' students have gone through transformations and had to accept the changes in life, just like the butterfly.*



Jameshia V. Hammonds, student

FROM THE LAURENCE DRIVON LAW SCHOOL ...

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

By L. Patrick Piggott, Dean

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OF THE AMERICAN INNS OF COURT THE DRIVON SCHOOL OF LAW REPRESENTED AT A GALA EVENT IN WASHINGTON, D.C.



On October 23, 2015, the American Inns of Court celebrated 35 years of dedication to professionalism, ethics, civility, and excellence in the law. The gala event was held in the Grand Ballroom of the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C. It featured a reception and dinner attended by more than 250 members and guests representing 80 Inns. The Callahan Inn was represented by Dean Patrick Piggott and his wife Ingela. The following day, October 24, there was a dinner at the Supreme Court of the United States, honoring the Inns that have achieved the status of Platinum Inn. This means the Inn is in the top 10% of all Inns. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was the hostess. Dean Piggott reports it was extremely impressive to see his name tag identifying the Humphreys College Drivon School of Law. Only one other non-American Bar Association school was present. Humphreys is the only non-ABA school that sponsors an Inn

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of Court. Judge Linda McFaddin of the Stanislaus County Superior Court accompanied the Dean and his wife to the dinner.

The American Inns of Court was established by the United States Appellate Court Judges Association, under the guidance of the U.S. Supreme Court, in the late 1980s. The organization charts chapters across the country, emulating the British concept of the Inns as tools of professional excellence. Each Inn must include law students, judges and attorneys of all experience levels. They meet once a month and provide dinner and programs with the object of increasing civility and professionalism within the legal community. The older attorneys mentor the new attorneys and law students. Our local Inn is named for Consuelo Callahan of the U.S. District Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit.

IN MEMORIAM

Judge Franklin Stephenson (January 14, 1961 - September 22, 2015)

San Joaquin County Superior Court Judge Franklin Stephenson passed away suddenly on September 22, in Ripon at the age of 54.

He was born in Los Angeles and spent his childhood years on a vegetable farm in Livingston, California, where he was an outstanding athlete, receiving a scholarship for football and track at Claremont Men's College. In college, he served on Claremont's Board of Directors and was Class President. After passing the bar examination in 1988, he was hired by the law firm of Rishwain, Hakeem and Ellis and worked in the firm for five years before joining the District Attorney's Office as a Deputy District Attorney. There he rose to the position of Supervising Deputy District Attorney and pioneered the formation of what would become the Quality of Life Crimes Division. He spent many hours in the community focusing on public education and outreach. Stephenson lived in Ripon with his wife, Michelle Stephenson, and their three school-aged boys.



Stephenson was appointed to the bench by Governor Gray Davis in 2002. Much of his exemplary career was spent in the Manteca Court. He distinguished himself throughout by treating everyone who appeared before him with dignity, care, and respect. While he could be firm when that was called for, he also used his vision and compassion to change the lives of hundreds who appeared before him, making the community safer. He exemplified judicial fairness and will serve as an inspiration to the many he mentored in the justice system.

Judge Stephenson also served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Humphreys College; for the last eight years, he was teaching Criminal Law and Professional Responsibility. He wanted to give back to the school that made his legal career possible. He was universally loved by his students, because he served as a mentor to them in addition to being their professor.

"I met Franklin Stephenson in the fall of 1985 when he appeared for his first class as a law student at Humphreys College," said L. Patrick Piggott, Law School Dean. "It was the first night I taught Professional Responsibility. Over the next 30 years he would call me on ethics questions and volunteer to help our students wherever needed. He opened his courtroom at nights for our trial practice class and loved to be the Judge to swear in our graduates who passed the bar and were becoming attorneys. He always thanked their family members for their support, knowing the new lawyers could not have done it without it. He was endeared by his students and they held a candle light vigil in his honor. The student testimonials were beautiful. When students dropped by his courtroom to observe a trial, he had the bailiff call them up and sat them where they could see and hear better. Then, he talked with them about the day. He was a referee for women's golf tournaments and invited students to come to his office and see the photos of all the great female players. We changed our schedule, so he could coach his son's baseball team and they went on to be the state little league champions. He was a good human being and is missed. He loudly expressed his gratitude for his education at Humphreys College and the opportunity it provided him to follow his dream while working full time. He inspired us."

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE SONIA SOTOMAYOR ADDRESSED STOCKTON STUDENTS “MIJA, YOU CAN!”

On Friday, October 23, UOP hosted the Advancing Women's Leadership Forum. The Forum's mission has been to bring together diverse leaders to inspire participants, especially young women, to make a lasting and positive impact in their communities. Two thirds of the 3,000 people in attendance were students from college to middle school, including a group of Humphreys' students, along with several administrators and faculty members.

This year, the Forum hosted the actress, model, snowboarder, and 2014 Paralympic bronze medalist *Amy Purdy* and Stockton native and Pacific alumna *Connie Rishwain*, president of UGG and Fashion and Lifestyle. The keynote speaker was *Sonia Sotomayor*, U.S. Supreme Court Justice.

At the very beginning of her presentation, Justice Sotomayor surprised all by leaving the main stage and approaching young students—“the kids”—and their teachers seated in the upper deck stands of Spanos Center. Dozens in the crowd were able to shake her hand. She shared her highly personal experiences, including her childhood and university years, while responding to direct students' questions.

The justice reminded her audience that she was the first of her Puerto Rican family to attend college. Sotomayor grew up poor in a Bronx housing project, was diagnosed with diabetes as a child, and her father—an alcoholic—died when she was nine years old. As a child, Sotomayor noticed that in the New York hospital that employed her mother as a practical nurse, all nurses were minority women and all supervisors were males. Only one doctor was a female. She realized that those stereotypes needed to be challenged.



Justice Sonya Sotomayor with University of Pacific President Pamela Eibeck

One of the students approached by Sotomayor was Jessica Rubio from St. Mary's High School. She asked the justice what she tells herself when people tell her she can't accomplish something. Sotomayor responded that people need friends in their lives who will “listen to their fears, comfort them, and then kick them in the behind.”

What's the secret to achieving a dream? “It's called a liberal arts education.” Sotomayor advised students headed to college to take courses they know nothing about. They will help you to develop an intellectual “capacity.” While responding to a law student's question, Sotomayor encouraged her to see legal education not only as a challenge but also an opportunity. “My days (as the Supreme Court member) are mostly made up of reading, writing and thinking.”

Sotomayor admitted that at the beginning of her professional development, she relied on men as mentors; there weren't many women in leadership positions. “As I've become more senior in my career, one of the wonderful things is that there are so many more women in leadership positions. Once you achieve any kind of position with responsibility you have an obligation to give back. You have an obligation if you're a woman in a senior position to mentor and to help other women achieve as well. If you're a minority, like I am, I have an obligation to give back to my community. Don't forget where you came from.”

“If you are embarrassed about your background, you can't see how it formed you. If I hadn't found some hope in my life, those challenges would have overcome me,” said the justice. She recalled the precious advice of her mother: “It is very cool to be a Latina... You know why? We're beautiful, we're sexy, we're smart—and we can dance.” Latinas also have a big heart, she added. Think of the mothers and grandmothers. Any mother out there who hasn't been able to achieve her dream “will keep saying to you: *Mija*, you can!”

~Stanislav Perkner

FROM THE LIBRARY AND LEARNING CENTER ...

HOW TO SUCCEED IN COLLEGE: EIGHTEEN WORKSHOPS OFFERED IN THE FALL QUARTER

- ❑ During the first week of the quarter, both New Student Orientation sessions were hosted by Dean *Wilma Okamoto-Vaughn*, *Santa Lopez-Minatre*, *Lisa Kooren*, and *Linda Verdun-Brown*. Additionally, in the following week, *Santa Lopez-Minatre* offered two workshops titled Your College Experience as a Challenge and an Opportunity.
- ❑ *Richard Hunt* led four sessions about the online database searches of periodicals and books.
- ❑ *Stanislav Perkner* conducted four workshops of the regular "Writing Clinic." He covered the MLA/APA-style formatting, writing and documentation of research-based papers.
- ❑ *Linda Rahmoller* invited students to the Writing Lab to share her experiences with the formatting of college papers.



- ❑ *Julie Walker* arrived from Modesto to lead two Stockton workshops: Classroom Etiquette and Netiquette (her co-presenter was Stanislav Perkner) and How to Write Résumés and Cover Letters.



- ❑ *Jason Wolins* discussed the main events characterizing the Presidential Election Year.
- ❑ The final session offered an opportunity to meet *Cynthia Becerra*, Dean of Instruction. The informal conversation was moderated by *Julia Hayhurst*.



FROM THE WORLD TRADE PRESS: A TO Z MAPS ONLINE

For almost a decade, Humphreys' students and faculty have been using the World Trade Press database known as the Global Road Warrior. The same publisher expanded its offerings with another database: A to Z Maps Online. The database includes more than 145 thousand maps, including maps of the world, individual countries, continents, and U.S. states. In addition, the database offers a unique collection of specialized materials: official CIA and NASA maps, as well as geology and weather maps. Humphreys' graduate students will be interested in the education-related links, including geography lesson plans and other teaching tools.

World Trade Press is a publishing and information products company dedicated to providing reliable, up-to-date digital media essential for researchers, educators, travelers, and logistics and international trade professionals. These products draw from its Global Knowledge Base of digital reference information, which complements the printed offerings that include maps, books, and atlases.

The A to Z Maps database is password protected. Contact the College Library and Learning Center if needed.

Poetry Corner

The following student poems/sonnets are from Prof. Walton's Fall LIT 101 course.

Behind the Parasol

The summer is fair
 The view is serene
 My dress makes all stare
 In the color of darkest green
 Our trip was by request
 One we won't soon regret
 My lawyer husband is the best
 An invitation from Marie Antoinette
 A golden palace with velvet and lace
 I see the eye of a stranger
 He stands in one place
 Holding no threat or danger
 I love my husband and always will
 This suitor is trouble and out for kill

~ Ashlee Lujan

Mother

The kindest love you gave, affected me beautifully,
 Even though you're no longer here, I feel you near,
 As I breathe, your teachings still carry me.
 Through the good times, and bad in life,
 Through the grace of love, our relationship will last.
 As you left, my sky wept, and our time passed.
 The time we shared, I will never forget,
 The smell of red roses that was your presence.
 As much joy you brought me, I feel regret.
 Things left unsaid, no final goodbyes.
 I wasn't there at the end, I was miles away.
 O how I wished to look into your eyes,
 As you smiled and bid me a final farewell.
 Be at peace, mom, we will carry on and time will tell.

~ Andre Dawson

The Beast

He has been following me for months
 Even when alone I can feel the dark presence
 Out with friends the evil cackle is always on the edge of hearing
 His mere presence is maddening
 I've never seen this taunting beast
 Just a glimpse here, with a quick turn of my head
 Or a chance sighting always near in the mirror
 Now it feels like years with this ever accompanying being
 I can take it no more, I must be free
 A bump in the hallway and I know it is time
 I knock the beast to the ground and strike without fear
 With each blow I know I'm closer to being free
 I stand and feel renewed, for the first time in forever
 But behind me I hear his cackle again
 It chills my bones to hear the sound of pleasure from such a beast
 I turn to see the monster
 And in the mirror with blood on my hands I know
 I shall never be free

~ Daryl Lee

DEAN OKAMOTO-VAUGHN ON WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

By Sandra Dibble, Executive Assistant to the Dean of Administration



The Central Valley Asian Chamber of Commerce held an incredible inaugural "Breaking the Bamboo Ceiling" event at the Stockton Golf & Country Club in October with 150+ in attendance. The event emphasized successes and challenges of minority women in leadership roles. Wilma Okamoto-Vaughn, Humphreys' Dean of Administration, was among the panel speakers and shared her experiences and insight:

"The 21st century is changing. More women than men are attending college. There are more women CEOs and politicians. Women have to believe in themselves and know their self-worth. They don't have to compete with men, they just have to have their own vision and keep working toward it with determination and not competition. They also have to remember not to wear their emotions on their sleeves. It is a hard road, but it is worth it."

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

- ❑ *Dean Cynthia Becerra has led the editorial board of this Newsletter since 2000. After fifteen years, she decided to step down because of her other college-wide administrative duties. Thank you, Cynthia, for all those years of committed and inspiring leadership!*
- ❑ In October, Drivon Law School Professor Archer Bakerink traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in a Support Rally and lobbying effort on behalf of a new advocacy group, "United to Face Addiction." Professor Bakerink is pictured with the U. S. Senator from California, Dianne Feinstein, alongside three women who lost children as the result of addiction beginning with prescription drug abuse. The group met with Senator Feinstein and other legislators in support of legislation to tighten regulation of the prescription drug industry.
- ❑ The 2015 Halloween Contest winners: *Gold* - Shana Brucia (Criminal Justice Department Chair), *Silver* - Xiomara Urbina (Court Reporting student), and *Silver* - Spencer Dayton (Legal Studies). The youngest contestant was Cole Shelton, accompanied by his parents Maria Alejo and Connor Shelton. Photo: Sandra Dibble.



- ❑ On November 13, President Robert G. Humphreys, Jr., addressed the Weber Point Coffee Club at the University of the Pacific. He talked about the history of Humphreys College and discussed the College's current situation, challenges and solutions, and outlined his vision for the future. The Weber Point Coffee Club is a group of retired business-people and faculty members who meet every Friday morning at UOP.

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- ❑ Cynthia Becerra, Dean of Instruction, attended a valuable WASC Conference In November, held at the campus of CSU, Pomona. Focusing on assessing the five core competencies, it included representatives from many of the CSU campuses, University of Pacific, Biola University, Claremont College, and Chapman University, as well as several other colleges. Sessions were conducted by Dr. Susan Elrod, CSU, Chico; Dr. Jen Fabbi, CSU, San Marcos; Dr. Carol Ann Gittens, Santa Clara University; Dr. Susan Hatfield, Winona State University; Dr. Laurie A. Pinkert, University of Central Florida; and Dr. Melanie Booth, Vice President of WSCUC.



- ❑ For the fourth time in seven years, Gene E. Bigler, international relations consultant, returned as a guest speaker of the Academic Council quarterly workshop. In his November fact-packed presentation on the latest developments in Latin America, he addressed several events and issues relevant to U.S. foreign policy: from the Trans-Pacific Trade Agreement, climate change, Obama's Cuba initiative, to the latest reconstruction of the Panama Canal. As always, Dr. Bigler's in-depth knowledge of the region led to a rich discussion.



- ❑ Professor Pam Wood has recently been voted to become Chair of the Humphreys College Academic Council. Though she already has her hands full overseeing the Department of Early Childhood Education, we hope that her work ethic and managerial qualities will serve the mission of the Academic Council well. The newly elected Council Secretary is Dr. Jim DeCosta. The Council appreciated the work of its previous leaders – Dr. Richard Chabot and Dr. Beverly Clark.



Humphreys
COLLEGE

www.humphreys.edu

Main Campus

6650 Inglewood Avenue
Stockton, CA 95207
209.478.0800
Fax 209.478.8721

Branch Campus

3600 Sisk Road, Suite 3-A
Modesto, CA 95356
209.543.9411
Fax 209.543.9413

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Stanislav Perkner, Editor, sperkner@humphreys.edu

Julie Walker, Co-Editor, julie.walker@humphreys.edu

Leslie Walton, Executive Editor, lwalt@humphreys.edu