

# Humphreys College

## NEWSLETTER SUPPLEMENT

SPRING QUARTER

JUNE 2016

### Meet Your Teacher Archer "Archie" Bakerink: "Just Don't Give Up. Don't Ever Give Up!"

The April inauguration of the Law School Professor Gail Archer Bakerink into the Humphreys' Hall of Fame was an opportunity to talk about his life and legal career.

*My parents moved from Illinois to California in 1957 just before my sophomore high school year. Exactly sixty years ago, my father had visited an old friend in Tracy and ended up buying a grocery store. "Tracy Garden Market" was located on Corral Hollow Road nearby today's West Valley Mall. The family consisted of my mom, dad, two brothers, and a sister. My sister, Lauretta, and I are the last remaining members; she moved back to Tracy a few years ago, making my life even more complete.*



#### How did you handle the move from Illinois to California?

*I was not pleased at all. I had to leave my teenage friends and the football team that was undefeated and eventually became the Illinois state champion. As a high school student, I became used to hard work in the family grocery store. It was my first full time job. However, looking back, I am very pleased that our family made that move. Upon high school graduation in 1960, I made a "temporary move" to southern California to join my older brother as a direct-sales representative. That temporary move lasted eleven years.*

#### What motivated you to study law?

*I was the first in my immediate family to graduate from high school. My father dropped out because his family could not afford shoes. He always wanted to be a lawyer. In the fall of 1971, after my return from southern California, I entered Humphreys Law School. Because I had no college credits, I was admitted under a special program; it required me to pass exams, which gave the equivalency of the required sixty units of college credit.*

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**You were thirty at that time—a bit older than your law school classmates were—and you had a wife and four children to support.**

*One of the great coincidences of my life was that Jim Stroup, my high school buddy, also enrolled at Humphreys Law School. Jim was an accountant for a company that hired me to sell New Holland hay equipment and Allis Chalmers tractors. That job not only paid well; it also provided the flexibility that I needed to study law.*

**How do you remember Humphreys Law School during your studies in the 1970s?**

*To say I was scared when I entered law school would be an understatement. I was terrified. With the support of the excellent adjunct faculty and the influence of Judge Nels Fransen, who was the dean of the Law School at that time, I passed the first-year Baby Bar Exam. It gave me a great boost in confidence. My father passed away a few months before I graduated. On that day, my mother handed me an envelope. For four years, my father had been setting aside five dollars every week so that I could take time off after graduation to study for the bar exam. Five dollars a week was a lot for him. There were about a thousand dollars in the envelope. It was a bittersweet day.*



*Archie Bakerink with his sister.*

**How did you become an attorney?**

*During the third year at the law school, one of my professors was attorney Laurence E. (Larry) Drivon, the son of a sitting municipal court judge and retired district attorney of San Joaquin County. Larry had just taken over the law practice of Frank Grande, a newly appointed judge. Larry offered me a job as a part time law clerk. Although the pay was not good, I accepted the opportunity to get some practical experience and establish connections in the legal community. That turned out to be one of the best decisions of my life and led to my first job as an attorney. After passing the bar exam on my first try in 1975, I was hired by Larry as an associate attorney. After two years, I became a partner in the firm, which by then included Retired Judge Laurence Drivon and eventually famed San Francisco attorney Melvin Belli. During my partnership with Larry Drivon and others, we hired a number of law clerks who went on to be very successful attorneys: Stew Tabak, Dean Cooper, Dale Balcao, among others. While still with the Drivon firm, I was the lead trial attorney in a personal injury case that resulted in the first million-dollar personal injury jury verdict in San Joaquin County.*

**When did you move to practice law in Tracy?**

*In 1987, I left the Drivon firm to form a new partnership with my lifelong friend Jim Stroup. Unfortunately, seven years later, Jim died. From that time, until I joined the full time faculty at Humphreys law school, I practiced law in Tracy with partners Greg Stoup, Brinton McCusker, and Mike Belden.*

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*Each of them started to work in my firm as a law clerk. I consider the mentorship of various law clerks who went on to become outstanding lawyers as one of my life achievements. Upon the death of my partner Jim Stroup, I was forced to learn something about estate planning and probate in order to wrap up Jim's portion of the Stroup and Bakerink firm in Tracy. I enjoyed that area of the practice of law and passed the examination leading to State Bar Certification as a Specialist in Estate Planning, Trust, and Probate Law.*

**So far, you talked about the invaluable support provided by your parents. Tell us more about the broader family support helping you to build a successful legal career.**

*All of my life I have had great support from my family. I have been especially blessed to be married to three truly astounding women; all of them have been part of my legal career path. My first wife Kathy, who is now deceased, encouraged me to return to school. My former wife Marian supported me through law school and the development of my law practice. Both of them not only gave me emotional and personal support... They gave me five great children and—by now—fabulous brood of ten grandchildren, and the newly arriving great grandchildren. My present wife, Joy, has supported me in all aspects of my professional, family, and spiritual life to an extent those who know her well understand. No one, however, can truly appreciate the difference she has made in all aspects of my life.*

**Besides your reputation as an attorney, you are well known as a tireless community activist and organizer.**

*Alongside my wife Joy, I have been involved in church and community activities all of our married life. I believe that has been the foundation of our marriage and the overall family relationships. I have been involved in Tracy Breakfast Lions for almost 30 years in various capacities, including the presidency. I was a founding board member of the Tracy Community Bank, McHenry House for the Homeless, the Grand Theatre Foundation, and San Joaquin County Second Harvest Food Bank. Additionally, I have served on the Board of Directors of Good Samaritan Community Services, the San Joaquin County Safety Council, and Lolly Hanson Senior Center.*

**It is well known that your volunteering has been reaching beyond those local and regional organizations.**

*For 29 years I have worked personally and professionally to establish and maintain programs for the recovery of individuals with substance abuse problems. In the early 1990s, I traveled to Russia and Cuba with a non-profit group "Creating a Sober World" to assist in the establishment of recovery support programs. The group's efforts in Cuba resulted in the first non-government recovery support group there.*



*Recovery Workshop Announcement, Cuba, 1993.*

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*That group, established in 1993, has been responsible for the opening of 40 groups operating in Cuba today. In 1998, as a member of the same organization that had traveled to Russia and Cuba, I made an initial exploratory trip to China to introduce the concept of private recovery support groups.*

**For the last two years, you have been involved in the national organization known as Facing Addiction, Inc.**

*I believe that addiction is a public health issue, not a crime. It costs—on average—350 lives lost every day. Facing Addiction, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to finding solutions to the addiction crisis. It is an independent coalition of national, state, and local non-profit organizations. In October 2015, this group sponsored a “Unite To Face Addiction” rally in Washington, D.C. It brought together more than 600 organizations and 100,000 individuals in a show of collective force to assist the 22 million Americans with addiction, stand up for the 23 million more in recovery, and urgently act to save lives. I attended that rally and participated in lobbying efforts to promote increased funding for treatment services. The group has found support in the legislative and executive branches of the federal government in its effort to educate all Americans. In February of this year, the White House announced that the 2017 budget proposal to Congress will include an unprecedented amount of \$1.1 billion in new funding for healthcare services needed to combat the addiction crisis. This request represents the largest increase in direct federal funding for treating substance use disorders in decades. Locally, my efforts include the establishment of the longest operating sober living facility in San Joaquin County and the establishment of the nonprofit “Sober Charities.”*

**In light of all that volunteering work, what is your most marked characteristic?**

*Determination and faith... Just don't give up. Don't ever give up!*

**Why did you decide to join Humphreys law faculty?**

*In 2008, attorney Chris Engh wanted a break from teaching and suggested to Dean Patrick Piggott that the school hire me as a fill-in for a few academic quarters (that was eight years ago). I have taught Wills and Trusts, Business Associations I, II, and III, Community Property, and the Business of Law and Evidence. In 2010, I took a sabbatical from my law firm to adjust to loss of vision in one eye. During my sabbatical, Judge Richard Vlavianos suggested that Humphreys develop a certified law student program to assist in what was then a new experimental court project “Parole Re-entry Court.” The dean decided to make the Certified Law Student Program a part of a larger Professional Practical Training Program (PTP). He asked me to join the full-time faculty and added the supervision of PTP, the Peer Review Program,*



*Orphanage in Nicaragua, 1996.*

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*and the teaching of Business Associations to my responsibilities. The Certified Law Student Collaborative Court Program was the first of its kind in the country. It is gaining recognition nationally. In addition to my classroom duties, I helped the dean develop an incubator office program for our Humphreys alumni who were newly admitted to the California Bar.*



*Celeste Garamendi, Bill Clinton, Archie Bakerink, University of the Pacific, 2008.*

### **All of that requires a great deal of teamwork...**

*All my life, I have believed in a value of productive collaboration... For that reason, I admire Judge Vlavianos. His dedication to the Collaborative Court and the needs of the individuals in his courtroom are unsurmounted. He told me something I will never forget: "Don't attribute to malice what you can attribute to ignorance." It really changes one's perspective! Another example: I have known Patrick Piggott well, dating back to the 1980s when he came to Stockton to try a major homicide case with my partner Larry Drivon. Pat has such a heart for the school! He pours himself into it. When things do not go right, it is not just business, it affects him personally.*

### **What is your greatest life achievement?**

*Overcoming my personal struggles and not giving into weakness. I have always learned from Abraham Lincoln, my historical hero. A great deal of my philosophy of life is based on two quotes attributed to him: "The average person is about as happy as he makes up his mind to be" and "When I do good, I feel good; when I do bad, I feel bad." That's my religion."*

~Stanislav Perkner



*Belli Building, 1985. Melvin M. Belli (1907-1996) was a prominent American lawyer known as "The King of Torts" and by insurance companies as "Melvin Bellicose."*

### ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY IN OUR VALLEY: 2016 AND INTO THE FUTURE

By Richard Chabot, Coordinator of the Community Studies Program



*You would be forgiven if you looked at some quick U.S. Census facts and pictured the northern San Joaquin Valley as an urban megacity. A Census map shows Modesto, Tracy, Stockton, and Lodi as being the heart of Metropolitan Statistical Areas that seem to overlap with Sacramento and the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Area. The numbers say that Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties are both 92% urban; you would expect to see factories and avenues of manufacturing, tall buildings, and bustling downtown arenas of commerce.*

However, as residents of our region you know of these cities and counties as home to many and drive-throughs for most, no-stop zones to avoid or at least with no attractions worthy of pulling-off for. The major highways that intersect our two counties are commonly full of traffic, busy with people passing on to the numerous places that are just out of reach of the many who call this region of the state home. If you were new to the state and in a car driving east from San Francisco or south from Sacramento, you would be amazed at the beauty of the land and the lushness of the crops that appear to grow even in winter. To the passer-by, we live in paradise. Row crops, tree nuts, grapes and milk, eggs and wine—a cornucopia that provides the counties and the state riches beyond any might Midas may have wished for. In 2012, both counties ranked in the top ten agricultural producers



for the state, bringing in more than a combined \$5 billion. And when you consider the rich educational opportunities, with a state college, two community colleges, and a number of other four year and graduate degree programs available at respected brick-and-mortar colleges located throughout the two-county region, then certainly one would expect a rich populace with an equally prosperous future to look forward to.

But the principal cities of the region are known as drive-throughs for a reason, rich in diversity of people but equally overwhelmed by lowered expectations. In more than one summary of the region we have been referred to as the Appalachia of the West, better known for the photographs taken during the 1930s Great Depression than for the wine our agricultural industry now produces.

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This is understandable when you step outside of the Chamber of Commerce picture of happy cows and sweet cherries and review the numeric data that describes the hard-working people who make up the heart of the two counties. We are a region with great resources and a future full of promise, yet always struggling to catch up with its potential.

We (mostly) know of our region as bountiful and full of fresh food, a good place to live, surrounded by famous attractions, and worthy of raising children while being able to explore our own potential as workers and citizens. But what of our economic future since the 2008 crash that still haunts the region? The forecast varies by county, with job losses in some sectors and job gains in others. While Stanislaus County has non-farm job gains in education and healthcare, San Joaquin County has grown in professional services and wholesale/retail trade. While income per capita remains below the state average, the Bureau of Labor Statistics sees wage and salary employment to increase by two percent for the entire region.

Last year, the California Economic Development Department predicted that 12 of 13 nonfarm

industry sectors in our region are projected to show positive growth between 2012 and 2022. The largest growth sectors include educational services, health care, social assistance, business services, and construction. This same report noted that both the fastest growing and largest growing sectors of employment will require at least some college. That's right:

at least some college.

While both counties have fared better than feared with an unemployment rate between only 8 and 9.5 percent, the region retains its historical place as being well above the state's unemployment rate, currently at 5.8 percent.

We all know somebody looking for work, and it seems that if you want a job, a good job, even here in the Valley, college is the way to go.

A recent report from the California Labor Market Review (December 2015) also noted that job gains among professional and business services are expected to continue its growth well into the future. Those groups least likely to gain from this positive report were among specific ethnic, age, and educational groups.

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A 12-month moving average shows that young, poorly educated, and minority group members remain far more likely to suffer unemployment. In a year of relatively positive job growth in California, both counties remain stagnant in terms of nonfarm payroll employment. Professional and service sector employment looks positive for the future, but only for those with some college behind them. There it is again: college.

Yet, so many Humphreys' students have a tough time finding work locally. Fortunately, there are other regions we can commute to, most especially the Bay Area and Sacramento. Unfortunately, this leads to the daily commute, averaging 30 minutes for the two counties. We wish! That average includes the five minute drive down the street and the three hour slog over the Altamont. What we need are more business and job opportunities locally.

Businesses argue that the high dropout rate and lack of well-educated prospective workers prevents them from locating in this region, and it's hard to argue back. Even with our great colleges, educational achievement doesn't look to be our most shining star in this part of the state. High school graduates or higher as a percent of the population (age 25 and above) is relatively low for both counties: 77.6% for San Joaquin and 77.2% for Stanislaus, as compared to California (81.5%) and the US (86.3%).

Those with a bachelor's degree for the same popula-

tion shows 18.1% for San Joaquin and 16.4% for Stanislaus while for California the percentage is a

### Income and Poverty Estimate (U.S. Census, 2014)

<u>Area</u>	<u>Percent in Poverty</u>
United States	15.5
California	16.4
San Joaquin Cty.	20.7
Stanislaus Cty.	18.1

much larger 31% and for the U.S. 29.3%. Not so many role models with a bachelor's degree in our region, but this means that getting that degree certainly makes you a part of a more elite work force.

A Public Policy Institute of California report (December 2015) analyzed economic and poverty data in California, recognizing the disparity between regions and ethnic groups across the state. Those in more urban areas, with higher education and white or Asian, were those least likely to be affected by poverty. Living in the Central Valley was an automatic negative, but two other things stood out. First, education was recognized as key to leaving and then staying out of poverty.

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Level of education and availability of higher educational institutions was important.

In addition, the availability of social services and other resources provided by our nation's social safety net was absolutely key to keeping large numbers of people out of poverty. This especially held true in rural areas that could include parts of San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties. These findings were corroborated by the Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality in a study that covered economic data through 2011. Poverty, unemployment, and other negative economic indicators are themselves negated by the availability of the social and other services

made available in a county/region.

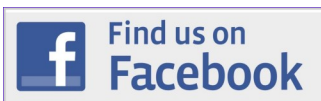
When it comes down to it, however negative the numbers may look, your choices as an individual, as a group, as a county, really do make a difference. So, here you are, feeling absolutely crushed by work, by family, and this college full of test-crazed professors. But hey, look up! You're looking forward, making choices and creating a life for yourself. The numbers and all we see around show that you are in the right place at the right time, and someday soon the economy will be working for you. And let me tell you, as one of those test-crazed professors, I'm proud to be a part of your world.



# *Congratulations, Graduates!*



*Humphreys College Graduation Ceremony,  
Stockton Campus, Saturday, June 18*



[www.humphreys.edu](http://www.humphreys.edu)

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