

# ***HUMPHREYS COLLEGE NEWSLETTER***

*April 2002*

---

## **Guest Speakers on Campus**

The students of Dr. Perkner's *Mass Media and Society* class had an opportunity to meet three interesting guests: Susan Carson, William Maxwell, and Michael Fitzgerald.

Susan Carson has been known in the community as a long-time owner and operator of radio stations. Her academic and practical interest in music and literature led her to the commercial radio business. The students appreciated her humor as well as in-depth knowledge of radio business.

William Maxwell is the owner of the Bookmark, well-known Pacific Avenue bookstore. The students were interested in his story of a successful survival in the era of the giant national chains, like Barnes and Noble or Borders, and the new e-businesses like Amazon.com.

The Record columnist Michael Fitzgerald amazed Humphreys students by his wit and wisdom with which he commented on a wide range of current events and issues. Inevitably, students were also interested in his advice for successful writing: "Be aware of the extraordinary richness of the English language—and *read* a lot."

## **From the Library and Learning Center**

Stanislav Perkner

TUTORIAL SERVICES have been instituted for about five years now at Humphreys College in order to offer assistance to students at every level. It is not by any means exclusively a remediation service. Students who are scoring *A*'s are as welcome as those who may be in danger of failing. In fact, students who have made maximum use of the service are usually in that former category.

OUR TUTORS: DANA GMUER AND DR. MICHAEL DUFFETT  
Dr. Duffett is available between 11 to 15 hours weekly to assist in all subjects requiring written reports. For example, you may have a paper due in Professor Walker's Art and Music Appreciation class or Dr. Perkner's Mass Media and Society. Bring your first draft to Dr. Duffett and together you can look it over for matters of organization, grammar, spelling, punctuation and expression. You can only improve by such a procedure. This service is offered free of charge to all members of Humphreys College. Dr. Duffett's hours vary from quarter to quarter depending on his teaching duties, but

information is always available from any member of the library staff or by calling at his office (B5 on the West Campus) or by calling him direct at 478-0800, Ext.136 or by e-mail [mduffett@humphreys.edu](mailto:mduffett@humphreys.edu). This quarter, Dr. Duffett is available every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and every Friday between 9 a.m. and 12 noon.

Dana Gmuer provides both individual and small-group tutoring in accounting and mathematics 24 hours a week, including Saturdays. She can be reached directly in the Library and Learning Center (West Campus). She is available to any student of Humphreys College every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 1:00 to 5:30 p.m., and on Saturday s between 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. She can be reached in the library at 478-0800, Ext.143.

**NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY.** The undergraduate library collection has been currently updated by a 12-volume set “Library in a Book.” Each volume contains an overview of the topic, chronology of important events, glossary of terms, biographical listing, complete index, and a fully annotated bibliography. The books cover the following topics: Terrorism, Capital Punishment, Gun Control, Censorship, Patients’ Rights, Sexual Harassment, Gay Rights, Privacy in Information Age, Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering, Physician-Assisted Suicide, and the Arab-Israel Dispute.

**WORLD MAP COLLECTION.** A new set of Hammond laminated wall maps is now available in the Library for the use of both the teachers and students. The set includes maps of the United States, Asia, Africa, and Europe. The maps will be permanently located in the library; however, they can be checked out for the classroom presentations.

**COLLEGE STUDY SKILLS SEMINAR.** At the end of the first week of the Spring Quarter, the Learning Center invited Humphreys students for a study skills seminar. In the course of the two-hour informal session, the participants had an opportunity to discuss many issues relevant to successful college work: how to read, write, and speak effectively; how to use the Internet and library resources; how to take class and reading notes; how to overcome test anxiety. At the end of the session, the participants were invited for a short library tour.

**HOW TO SUCCEED IN COLLEGE?** The Learning Center is offering both small group and individual consultations for free to Humphreys College students. The Learning Center is located in the college library. It is open from Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. No appointment necessary. For telephone and e-mail inquiries on study resources, library materials, and reference services, please call the Library: (209)478-0800, Ext.143, or e-mail [sperkner@humphreys.edu](mailto:sperkner@humphreys.edu).

.....

## **PARALEGAL STUDIES AT HUMPHREYS COLLEGE**

**Professor Rowena Walker, Humphreys College Chair of the Paralegal Studies Department, received the San Joaquin County Bar Humphreys College School of Law Award in Legal Education for her work in developing the paralegal major and degree program at Humphreys College. It was not only an opportunity to**

**congratulate her, but also to ask her about the early days of the paralegal program. Here is Prof. Walker's response.**

*The Paralegal Studies Department at Humphreys College today is the result of an interesting process that began over 25 years ago: the now-successful Stockton attorney Lawrence Drivon suggested that starting classes for legal secretaries—wishing for even more variety in their jobs—might be just the step to take in a college that already had both legal secretarial classes and a law school. With much support from nearly everyone in both parts of the institution, including Dean Nels B. Fransen of the law school and Humphreys' president, John R. Humphreys, the college embarked on a program which began with a few law classes here and there—a few potential paralegals even attended certain classes in the law school for a while. The process culminated in the offering of a Certificate of Paralegal Studies and later the Bachelor of Science in Paralegal Studies.*

*In the early days of the program, two or three graduates of the law school taught almost all of the paralegal classes. At that time, only six courses were required for a certificate, and since paralegalism was not a full-fledged profession anywhere yet, the classes were taught somewhat in the tradition of law school classes, that is, by the case-study method. The particular skills needed by paralegals being not clearly defined, it was believed that just having a knowledge of the law was a pretty good start and would give the secretary a great advantage if she wanted to “move up.”*

*It soon became clear, however, that lawyers and paralegals needed different skills, and the curriculum slowly responded by emphasizing research and writing, preparation for trials, professional ethics, interviewing and counseling and, in general, procedural law rather than substantive law.*

*In the early 1980s it was becoming clear that the profession—paralegalism—was rapidly taking hold throughout the entire country. The Department of Labor put paralegals and legal assistants at the top of the “most-needed” list for several years. Humphreys College responded by offering more courses and requiring eight classes instead of six for a certificate. Additionally, the associate degree in a paralegal studies was offered for a time.*

*It then became clear that more was going to be required of those entering the profession, and the college decided that the foundation of a good paralegal education was the liberal arts; the College then withdrew the offering of the associate degree and began to offer the certificate and a Bachelor of Science degree. While the certificate now requires nine courses (in compliance with a new state law), the bachelor's degree, with its heavy requirements in liberal arts courses, is recommended for those who want to truly call themselves paralegals.*

*Throughout the long evolution of the program, many people have given much time to the care and its development. For many years David Wellenbrock, Deputy District Attorney of San Joaquin County, Philip Urie, a deputy in the same office, and George Abdallah, now a judge in the Superior Court of San Joaquin County, served as a curriculum committee to oversee the direction of the program as well as teachers in many classes over the course of many years. Not only did they advise the program on this campus, but were there to guide the programs that were started on the campuses of Modesto Junior College and Merced College. Much later, classes were also offered on the Sacramento campus. Of great help in the off-campus programs was Michael Rishwain, who taught on at least two of the campuses to provide much-needed*

coordination. Over the years many distinguished paralegals, attorneys, and judges have taught, advised, and generally assisted the College in the paralegal program to make it prominent among colleges that offer such programs. Humphreys College continues to be proud to offer a paralegal studies program.

## **California Literature** **Two Students' Literary Journeys**

### **From A DAY IN THE LIFE: A CALIFORNIA REFLECTION**

*Leslie D. Walton*

*Northern California and the Central Valley have a laid-back atmosphere, where recreation and culture are important elements to our everyday lives. Every year, around this time, a multitude of festivals begin that celebrate our farming assets—like asparagus, cherries, garlic, onions, and beans—while other festivals celebrate our cultural diversity. As summer approaches, California's automotive arteries begin filling up with an increasing numbers of cars, who must fight it out with our daily commuters for position. What makes California unique and attractive is its diversity of culture and beauty and our adventurous spirit and appreciation for life.*

*As I finish my Starbucks coffee, I decide to join the parade of cars as they slowly creep toward I-5. Pushed toward Tracy at an ever-increasing rate of speed, I notice that the once small farming community is not sectioned off by numerous subdivision sound walls that, from distance, resemble that of a large prison. I wonder if they are trying to keep something in or out. I finally reach Livermore in one piece and find a continual carpet of homes and businesses covering the hillsides. Cities merge through growth; tension and exhaust fumes fill the air; and a sense of apprehension and excitement builds as multiple freeways converge and then separate. . .*

*Traveling eastward, fellow travelers rush toward the toll booths of the San Mateo Bridge with renewed intensity, only to find their journey prolonged by sightseers, like me, who want to enjoy the crossover experience. The sky above is accented with a thin marine layer of fog that embraces the tips of the tallest pine trees. I roll down my windows and can feel a heaviness to the air and the smell of salt water. Now, I know that I'm almost there and a feeling of calm ecstasy comes over me. Driving through Half Moon Bay and two miles north on Highway 1, I finally reach my destination—Moss Beach. Moss Beach, home of Fitzgerald's Bird and Marine Reserve, is special because it has an inner tidal pool area that during low tide I can walk about one-half mile out into the ocean. The cliffs that overlook the reserve are filled with paths that lead inland to a valley and along the seashore and end at a famous restaurant that has been profiled on television because it is haunted. The cliffs are also well known because they were used in the Danielle Steel story The Promise, but unfortunately the actual area used in the movie has long been taken out to sea as the result of excessive erosion that has occurred over the past 20 years.*

*As always, a ritual performed and promise kept, I walk along the shore in knee-deep water and let the surf crash against my body. I must wade in the ocean and, for a*

*short time, become part of it. Water cleanses the body and soul and refreshes the heart and mind. After all, the Pacific Ocean is part of what makes California so special.*

## **From MY VISION OF CALIFORNIA**

*Gary Shelley*

*I have lived in California for the majority of my life. It has been an on-and-off relationship that has stretched a span of 19 years. The thing that impresses me about California is that no matter where I have lived I am reminded of my adopted state.*

*I lived in Georgia for a time; and when I would walk through the woods, I would be reminded of the woods around San Luis Obispo, where I used to train. In the summertime the humidity is high, and you perspire from just breathing. The sun is out, a giant yellow orb floating in a sea of sparkling blue sky and clouds that transform into a thousand different images in my mind. You can hear the scurrying of the endangered kit fox as it runs for its den, the shriek of the predatory birds that inhabit the landscape and horizon. There is also the buzzing of the flying insects that thrive in the climate, assaulting man as an attacking air force on strike missions. Interestingly, when I awake in the early morning in my sleeping bag, I am met by the biting chill of a winter's day from the nearby coast. "But it's summer!" my mind screams. Then my breath forms the clouds that I will gaze at later while I perspire. I suddenly find myself wishing I were in Colorado and enjoying her delightful winters.*

*Colorado enters my thoughts with its pristine mountains and I picture our great Sierra Mountains and the times I've spent in their heights. When you're alone in those ranges, it's quiet and peaceful. I take a breath of crisp air with barely a hint of the encroachment of man. I recall the crunch of snow beneath my feet on a nice winter day while hunting for a fishing spot or game. There is a joy in coming upon an isolated lake in the mountains. Sometimes the lake is not frozen over and there is a breeze, it appears as a moving mirror, reflecting everything that encompasses its beauty. The stars are different at night in the mountains. The sky becomes a black canvas dotted with pinpricks of light that combine to form the objects of myths and tales. Staring at the constellations, you are taken from the world's petty thoughts and worry, being absorbed into the whole of the universe. Sometimes, I think about my place in it all and humble myself before the infinite possibilities that are out there. The mountains can make you feel that way sometimes, a small fish in a vast ocean.*

*The foothills around Ione and Jackson take me back to the Kentucky and Tennessee border. In the springtime the grass is like a million emeralds shimmering on a rolling hill. I smell the musky scent of the livestock carried on the breeze like the cavalry of old. The rains would fall in the spring. The rain fell like sheets that hung on a clothesline, transparent but almost impenetrable. Sometimes, I enjoyed rolling in the sheets and bouncing on my bed of grass and lying on the pillow of a hill to rest my head and dream. It would take me into the past where I wandered in a desert and saw such beauty that was coupled with horrors that assaulted my senses and stole my youth.*

*The desert around Ft. Irwin is where I must go sometimes to train to fight in a climate that I am already familiar with. I feel as if I'm planted back to the sandy earth of the Iraqi desert. The only creatures of this land are scavengers and survivors. The dry moans of the winds coming across the cracked face of the land speak of its age—an old man, timeless and without mercy because he has been forsaken. There are the sandstorms that threaten to peel your skin from the bone and carve into your soul. The heat is a burden that you have to carry with you like the fear in your heart. I only escaped and the stars when I allowed the cool breeze of night to sing me a lullaby and I could hear my mother's reassuring voice saying, "We're only a thought away."*

*California is my adopted home. It raised me for most of my life and has left its own influences on and impressions in my life. But what I appreciate about his state, my home, is that no matter where I go and what I experience, I can always come home.*