

Humphreys College

Newsletter



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JUNE 2008

SPRING QUARTER

WASC 2008 CONFERENCE

“Illuminating Learning, Accrediting Quality” was the theme of the most recent Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) conference attended by Humphreys College. Dean Jess Bonds, Associate Dean Bob Humphreys and Professor Cynthia Becerra represented the College at this well-attended Academic Resource Conference held in beautiful San Diego from April 16-19. With over eight hundred participants, the four-day program provided the attendees with important information about departmental and institutional assessment, program reviews, and retention.

During one of the conference luncheons, Farooq Kathwari, Chairman and CEO of Ethan Allen Interiors, Inc., was the guest speaker. His speech, entitled “Caring and Conflict: The Role of U.S. in an Interdependent World,” focused on the responsibility of higher education in fostering knowledgeable, courageous leaders in a global society who are capable of resolving conflicts not only in the boardroom but also on the world stage.

With both private and public colleges and universities in attendance, the College representatives were exposed to a diverse array of assessment methods, academic programs, and faculty making this an invaluable trip.

30 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE COLLEGE



Who is the most dedicated, gifted professor at Humphreys College and probably dated Christopher Columbus (just kidding about the last part)? The answer, of course, is Professor Rowena Walker. Well respected and admired by students, faculty, and staff alike, Professor Walker has been employed by the College for 30 years. So on Tuesday evening, on June 10th, the President of the College, Robert G. Humphreys, presented her with an engraved crystal clock commemorating this prestigious honor.

The well-attended event, held in the Forum, allowed Dr. Humphreys to recognize Professor Walker for her continued commitment to the College and the vital role she has played in chairing the Paralegal Department over the past three decades. Noting that Mrs. Walker had taken over the program that his mother—Gladys Humphreys—had created, Dr. Humphreys praised Mrs. Walker for her willingness to do whatever was necessary to promote the program—including providing offerings in Modesto, Sacramento, and even Merced. Always striving to improve the quality of the paralegal program and her courses in the Liberal Arts Department, Rowena Walker serves as a role model to all the faculty.

Faculty, staff, and students showered Professor Walker with well-deserved gifts and cards in recognition of the important role she has played not only at the College but also in their lives.



FROM THE BUSINESS DEPARTMENT...

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO USE THAT TAX REBATE? WILL IT BE GOOD FOR YOU OR GOOD FOR THE ECONOMY?

By Jason Wolins, Chair

Okay now, did you receive that tax rebate check yet? How are you going to use it? Our federal government wants the 130 million or so recipients to stimulate the economy by spending it. But is spending it best for you, personally?

The USA TODAY posed this question to some economic and personal finance experts. It reported the results in the article, "Using your tax rebate: What's good for you, vs. U.S. economy?" May 14. Below are nine categories and the panel's ratings—let's make those ratings go from a low of no dollars to a high of five dollar signs.



Are you ready to take the test? Cover up the answers and see how you do. No peeking!

1. Add to a down payment to purchase a home.

Good for economy	Good for you
\$\$\$\$\$	\$
The spin: Buying a home has a domino effect throughout the economy. Direct help goes to homebuilders, real estate agents, lenders, and home improvement companies.	The spin: The tax rebates would be so small a percentage of a down payment that it is probably better to use the money some other way.

2. Add to a down payment to purchase a car.

Good for economy	Good for you
\$\$\$\$	\$
The spin: After buying a home, cars are usually the second largest purchases people make. Again, there is an economic domino effect. Direct benefits go to auto manufacturing plants, auto dealers (they employ 1.1 million people in the U.S.), auto service providers, and car washes.	The spin: Cars start to lose value immediately—depreciation can be the highest expense during the first five years. Kelley Blue Book reports that after five years, the average new car will retain only about 35% of its initial cost.

3. Spend on home remodeling or appliances.

Good for economy	Good for you
\$\$\$	\$\$\$
The spin: There is somewhat of an immediate economic benefit. Locally, you benefit home remodeling personnel (contractors, designers, home remodeling store salespeople). Nationally, many of these items are either made or processed in U.S. factories (paint, granite, washers, dryers).	The spin: The good: Home remodeling is likely to increase the value of your home. The not so good: You usually can get back up to only 70% of those remodeling costs when you sell your home.

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4. Buying electronics or a new HDTV

Good for economy	Good for you
\$\$	No dollars
The spin: Almost all electronics are made overseas. Thus, no help for the U.S. manufacturing economy. However, you may be helping local people who work at electronics stores.	The spin: Quick now, a show of hands: Does anyone really see how blowing your tax rebate on a new TV is going to help your personal financial situation? (Personal note: I will leave it up to you to judge the quality of the TV shows you would get to watch!)

5. Take a vacation in the U.S.

Good for economy	Good for you
\$\$	\$\$
The spin: This does help some people in the tourism industry (which employs 18 million). However, it is pure “consumption” with not much left for you but memories and pictures.	The spin: How about those airfares and gas prices? Pre-trip analysis: Just be sure you really have the money to blow on that domestic vacation!

6. Take a vacation outside the U.S.

Good for economy	Good for you
\$	No dollars
The spin: You do not help the U.S. economy at all unless you fly on a U.S. airline. (Personal note: Double-check those U.S. airline quality ratings before you choose one over	The spin: How is the dollar’s exchange rate holding up against those foreign currencies? How about against the euro? Maybe, wait ‘til later to take that trip to Europe?

7. Pay down credit card debt.

Good for economy	Good for you
\$\$	\$\$\$\$\$
The spin: Short-term help? Not much. Long-term help? It frees up some of your credit so you can spend more in the future.	The spin: Now we’re getting somewhere. What if you have a credit card balance with a 22% annual finance charge? By paying it down, you’re making a “surrealistic” annual 22% on your investment!

8. Invest in a retirement savings account.

Good for economy	Good for you
\$	\$\$\$\$\$
The spin: Not much U.S. economic help now. But wait—it will help in future decades when you find you really do have some money in retirement.	The spin: We’re on a roll now. Getting somewhere, Part 2. How about these numbers: If you put a \$600 tax rebate in a retirement account today, it will grow to about \$6,000 in 30 years, assuming an 8% average annual return. So, how about starting to contribute the maximum to a 401(k) or IRA?

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9. Boost your emergency fund.

Good for economy	Good for you
No dollars	\$\$\$\$\$
The spin: Ouch. Put the rebate in the bank and there is not much direct help for the U.S. economy. Long-term: It gives a small uptick to the low U.S. savings rate.	The spin: We're really on a roll now. Three \$\$\$\$\$ in a row. Getting somewhere, Part 3. It is a good idea to have an emergency fund of 3-6 months' salary and expenses, especially in an economically uncertain time. But wait. There's more—you can spend the cash if you want, instead of charging more to that high finance charge credit card.

So, how did you do? In case you are interested, the Business Department is offering its MGT 150: Personal Financial Management course this summer!

FROM THE LIBERAL ARTS DEPARTMENT...

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

By Cynthia S. Becerra, Chair



A MESSAGE FROM CYNTHIA BECERRA...

Looking back over the academic year, I have discovered that it takes “a village” to assist students in meeting their educational needs. Moreover, I can’t begin to express my gratitude to my colleagues in the Liberal Arts Department for their dedication and commitment both to their students and to our programs. Further, I also have depended on student services and the administration to provide guidance for our students who need their assistance in financial aid, tutoring, registration, fiscal issues, and technical problems. Our college community has worked in concert to provide an

invaluable service to our students; therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for making my job much easier. This has been an eventful quarter, so enjoy the following highlights of department-sponsored events that have taken place this Spring quarter.

Students and Alumni Met to Talk about Career Opportunities

In May, students, instructors, and alumni of the Liberal Arts Department met in The Forum to talk about career opportunities in the fields of liberal and community studies. The well-attended event was hosted both Professor Becerra and Dr. Richard Chabot, Coordinator of the Community Studies Program. Professor Becerra introduced the panelists, all Humphreys College alumni: **Donna Edwards, Jamie Segura, Kenneth Hepperle, and Richard Hunt.**

Kenneth Hepperle, who has worked for several years as an elementary school teacher, compared Humphreys’ small-class environment with the frequently overcrowded and impersonal community colleges. Kenneth maintains close ties to his alma mater as the Vice President of Humphreys College Alumni Association. In his view, a liberal arts education has opened up numerous choices for his future professional specialization.

Jamie Segura shared with the participants her appreciation of the general education component she gained at Humphreys College. Now, while working as a substitute teacher, Jamie pursues her multiple-subject teaching credential and master’s degree at National University. She was extremely positive about her Humphreys student experience as a first step towards a graduate-level education.

Richard Hunt is well known to many Humphreys students as their classmate and recently – after his

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graduation – the Lead Tutor at the Learning Center. As a Humphreys student, Richard enjoyed numerous opportunities to cultivate his critical thinking. Reflecting on his current experiences with the UOP's School of Education program, Richard expressed his appreciation for the caring and cooperative environment inside the graduate courses: "I learn a lot not only from my instructors but also from my classmates." At UOP, he is focused on curriculum development.

Donna Edwards is benefiting from the general-education components of her Humphreys College degrees in both her job and her further studies. In hindsight, she values the rigor of Humphreys' communications courses, especially the intensive grammar and business writing courses. As an undergraduate student, she also gained important social skills that she applies in the workplace.

All panelists openly shared their life plans. They see their professional prospects linked to further education plans that have benefited from the well-rounded liberal-arts foundation gained at Humphreys.

During the informal discussion, one of the participants, Humphreys student Rosalind Ross effectively expressed the main message of the session: "Even though it might be sometimes difficult, stay in a learning mode. Now, I better understand the universal value of our general education."

At the Intersection of Science and Literacy Humphreys Professors apply their Teaching Strategies

In March, Dr. Felix Cano attended the first of two conferences given by the Connections Institute and hosted by the San Joaquin County of Education, Sacramento Area Science Project. The facilitators were Arthur Beauchamp, M.A. (University of California, Davis) and Richard D. McCallum, Ph.D. (University of California, Berkeley). These two speakers/presenters participate on The California Science Project.

The main topic of study was Science Content and Literacy Connections, Increasing Achievement in Science: A New Perspective on the Role of Language Arts in Science Instruction. The course included various models and teaching strategies intertwining purposeful reading, productive dialogue, and meaningful writing.



As part of their homework, the participants were asked to apply what they had learned from the first day's information for their real-life classes and construct science literacy lesson templates. They were also asked to have a meaningful discourse with a colleague to discuss the templates and their application. Dr. Cano invited Professor Cynthia Becerra, the Chair of the Liberal Arts Department, who shared with him her literacy expertise. In May, both Professor Becerra and Dr. Cano attended the second of the two conferences to present the result of their cooperation to its participants.



(Left to Right) Donna Edwards, Professor Cynthia Becerra, Richard Hunt, Jamie Segura, and Kenneth Hepperle.

FROM THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DEPARTMENT...

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

By Pam Wood, Chair

We have 39 students graduating with degrees in Early Childhood Education this month! What an incredible number of people who are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of young children in our community! In spite of family issues and work demands, you have reached the next step in achieving your educational goals. I look forward to hearing about your future accomplishments in the field of Early Childhood Education. Congratulations and keep in touch!



FROM THE COURT REPORTING DEPARTMENT...

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

STUDENT VOICES

INTERNSHIP IS A REAL-LIFE EXPERIENCE

By Susana Abeyta, Court Reporting Student

A challenge. That's my first internship experience. Not only did I have to test my skills, knowledge, and judgment, but I had to test my endurance, courage, character, and drive.

My internship started out at a San Francisco mock trial. I found that once the nerves subsided, writing became fun. That was, until the pace picked up and I was writing for my life.

First note to self: Ask before the proceeding starts if they want you to interrupt them to slow down. I learned to get the specifics before the first word is spoken.

Sitting in the Corner

My plan was to go somewhere familiar for my next internship experience. I went to my local courthouse just twenty minutes from my house. I assumed it would calm me down. Everyone there was so friendly! I couldn't wait to set up my equipment in the bare corner next to the American flag. I rehearsed everything I thought was going to happen. Well, court is not like school. It's fast, furious, confusing, and unrelenting. I walked out thinking that I sucked and that I should figure out how to pay my student loans off without the benefit of a license.

I didn't want to give up. I would return and triumph over the fast-talking attorneys, speed-reading judge, and mumbling defendants. I came back armed with my new briefs and capitulated to using names as oppose to the generic identifiers. Well, I ended up in a criminal trial, and we were going to pick a jury. Since I had never done jury *voir dire*, I was back to scrambling for an answer. At the last second, I looked at the official reporter and asked, "How do you do this?" She gave me a few hints and we were off. The judge was nice and talked slower and the pace was manageable.

Second note to self: Be prepared for anything.

Does the Court Have its Fun Side?

I was back for the second day of trial and felt much more at ease with the regular question-and-answer process. On the last day of the trial, we heard closing arguments by the People, and the defendant took the stand. I realized that I enjoyed the criminal trial process much more than the regular calendar matters. I left wishing I had heard the entire case.

Third note to self: Court does have its fun side.

I still yearned to master taking down all calendar matters in Department 2. I went ahead and set a goal: to overcome the speed, rapid exchange, and unfamiliar terms. I've sat in on Department 2 twice since that first day. I can't say that I've mastered it, but I sure will one day. I won't give up.

I felt I was neglecting my deposition interning. I started calling around. Not being pressed for time, when calls weren't returned and depositions fell through, I easily shrugged it off as the nature of the business. Pretty soon, that casual attitude turned into pure desperation. I like that deposition work is much more informal, flexible, and slower. I now know the major drawback: cancellations happen frequently.

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What Did I Learn

Even if the attorneys dress sloppy (some did!), always look like a professional; otherwise people won't take you and your profession seriously. If you show up with a tape recorder and audiosync, don't wonder why attorneys question your abilities. If you can't trust your notes, neither will they. If you keep up with your software, you will save time and money. Never be too busy to upgrade your skills. If you didn't hear it, probably nobody else did. Always ask; it's your license on the line, not theirs. Treat all clients the same whether or not you think they are guilty as sin; you could be wrong. Don't talk poorly of attorneys, clients, other reporters, or witnesses; your comments make you seem unprofessional. Don't be afraid to ask questions. The only stupid question will be the one you have to ask after you assumed something. Leave for your job early; give yourself the extra time to relax or help out your client. Everyone in the room is your client. Your poker face can come in handy. Write out your numbers, especially on a paperless machine. Briefing on the fly is okay; don't be afraid to do it. Practice briefing on the fly. Know your software and keep your computer updated. Audiosync can be both your best friend and your worst enemy. Keep calm. Expect the unexpected. Sometimes you're going to hear unfamiliar legal jargon; don't wait to be surprised, read, pay attention, and ask questions. There really are expressions used such as *CLETS, wet reckless, gassing, will trail not will trial*. Write out a longer word the first two times, then brief it. Trust yourself; you're smart and can figure that out. Update your dictionary. You will never stop learning on this job. Keep a positive attitude; it's a lifesaver. Use briefs for start-and-stop time with fill-in fields. Look on the docket for pertinent information. Don't give up. Finishing school is just the first step. Learning the ropes is the second step. Interning is an aid to help you transition into a working environment. Keep learning. Belong to professional organizations. Talk to other reporters. Don't be afraid to work in court; it makes you a better reporter. Be prepared to go anywhere to report, even a dirt road out in the boonies.

How to Choose the Right Firm

I asked several deposition reporters: "How do you choose a firm to work for?" Some preferred having a steady paycheck and favored a firm that pays for the original and one every two weeks. All reporters concurred on one point: They do not want to be a collection agency chasing down payments. Appearance fees differ among agencies. Some don't charge an appearance fee at all and have a higher per-page rate. Some firms rarely charge appearance fees at all and never bother collecting on them. Nobody was interested in giving me monetary guidelines, but all reporters were willing to steer me clear of the firms which have burned them. For that, I was grateful.

Fourth note to self: Try taking a few jobs for a firm before you commit to staying.

Interning is real-life experience. Every opportunity made me realize how much more I wanted to learn. In retrospect, I figured out that all of these talented reporters I met started out just where I am now.



Jamie Hopp Awarded

In May, the Soroptimist International of Lodi and Lodi Sunrise Clubs held a combined evening awards ceremony reception at the Lodi Public Library to honor their annual award recipients. Humphreys College Court Reporting student, **Jamie Hopp**, was awarded the Women's Opportunity Award. It is the Soroptimist signature service project which offers cash grants to women who are the primary income earners for their families. The candidates must be attending or have been accepted into a vocational and/or skills training program or undergraduate degree program to upgrade their employment status. The Soroptimist Club identified Jamie Hopp as a woman who has overcome devastating circumstances in her personal life and who is working toward a degree to improve her life and the life of her child. Congratulations, Jamie!

FROM THE LAW SCHOOL...

FACULTY RETREAT 2008

By Patrick Piggott, Dean

Each year the Law School holds a weekend retreat. This year, it took place in San Francisco, in conjunction with San Francisco Law School. Twenty-two faculty and staff members from Humphreys attended. Meeting at the campus, the retreat hosted two distinguished speakers.

George Riemer, the new Director of the California State Bar Educational Standards, informed the attendees about the changes in the accreditation process. The Rules and Guidelines are being completely rewritten and will impact all California accredited law schools. An important ingredient in the new Rules and Guidelines is the 2007 Carnegie Foundation Report on Legal Education, which critically reflects on the nature of the legal thinking, the overall cultivation of prospective lawyers' social and ethical skills, and the modernization of instructional methods. These expectations do correspond with the WASC standards of effective education. Only four of the fifteen California accredited law schools are WASC accredited; Mr. Riemer pointed out Humphreys' success.



The second speaker was **Jean C. Gaskill**, a nationally and internationally acclaimed expert in drafting and editing law admissions tests and in developing the examinations. His interactive workshop focused on the designing and grading of essay questions. He introduced a holistic method of grading with regard to the scale used by the California Bar.

Later, Dean **Jane Gamp** of San Francisco and Dean **L. Patrick Piggott** outlined the latest change proposals for the new Rules and conducted a joint faculty discussion, followed by separate faculty meetings. In the Humphreys contingent, John Schick presented a summary of the educational assessment criteria under the changing Law School conditions. The faculty also conducted regular business and certified eleven students for graduation.

The retreat ended with a wonderful dinner meeting with the attendees and their guests. Dean Piggott presented awards of Appreciation to Registrar **Wendy Campigli** and Assistant for Faculty Matters, **Martha Campos**.

LAW SCHOOL GRADUATION 2008

The Law School held its graduation on Saturday, May 17, in the Jerry Medina Courtyard. Eleven Juris Doctorate degrees were awarded to the hard-working few who successfully completed the Laurence Drivon School of Law program: **Jason Perisho, John Stovall, Robert Rickman, Jennifer Connenberg, Aldo DeAmicis, Everly Inong, Frank Jerome, Sandra Sinclair, Jacob Benguerel, Virginia Peek, and Michael Gregory**.

Jason Perisho was Valedictorian and John Stovall was Salutatorian. The commencement address was delivered by local Assemblyman Greg Aghazarian. It was refreshing to hear his praise of the school and its importance in our community. The hooding was performed by Dr. Robert G. Humphreys and the new chair of the Board of Trustees Ronald Guntert, Jr.

Family members were honored with carnations. After the ceremony, refreshments were served in the Forum and the students gathered for the last time before heading off to study for the July California Bar Examination.



IBML GRADUATION 2008

On Friday evening, June 6, The Institute of Business Management and Law (IBML) held its third graduation ceremony in the Jerry Medina Courtyard of Humphreys College. Approximately 1,000 guests supported the 60 graduating seniors who listened to guest speaker Mr. Daniel Castillo, Stockton Unified School District Board of Trustees President, and speeches from Valedictorian Mohammad Khan and Salutatorian Jagroop Kaur. Also assisting the distribution of diplomas and acceptance of the Class of 2008 was SUSD Board of Trustees Vice-President Sarah Bowden. In addition to receipt of their diplomas and the distribution of scholarships from both Humphreys College President Dr. Robert Humphreys and Dean of Administration Wilma Okamoto-Vaughn, Principal Bill Parks gifted each graduate with pens engraved with a sentiment dedicated to the Class of 2008.

The following graduates were scholarship recipients:

- **Rowena Deyto** – Trustees Scholarship, four-year tuition; Gregory Vaughn Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 for books and supplies.
- **Samuel Olvera** – Trustees Scholarship, four-year tuition; Gregory Vaughn Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 for books and supplies.
- **Anjou Berry** – Gregory Vaughn Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 for books and supplies.
- **Jesse Gutierrez** – Jerry Medina Memorial Scholarship, \$500.
- **Elijah Cooper** – Jerry Medina Memorial Scholarship, \$500.



LIBRARY AND LEARNING CENTER STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS

The latest annual survey exploring the level of student satisfaction with Humphreys College's Library and Learning Center services is based on 228 responses. Less than a half of the respondents considered themselves "regular library users." Almost 40 percent of the respondents were using the library book holdings – at least from time to time, and every third, newspaper and magazine holdings. The most popular seemed to be the computer/Internet facilities available in the library: almost 70 percent utilize them, most of them regularly. More than 40 respondents claimed that they were using the isolated breakout rooms.

In their responses to the question about the overall satisfaction with the library staff services, 35 percent marked them as "excellent," 35 percent as "fair, and 2.6 percent as "poor"; the rest marked the "no-opinion" answer.

Because of the expanded tutorial services, the survey also inquired about the overall student satisfaction with them. A third of the respondents gave them the "excellent mark"; more than 13 percent considered them "fair"; and only 0.4 percent labeled them "poor." The rest (almost 55 percent) did not express any opinion.

As always, the survey gave the students an opportunity to voice their proposals. Among the positives was praise for the friendly and resourceful staff of the Library and Learning Center, especially the tutorial assistance. As for the critical remarks, students would like to see more computers on the library premises.

NEW ONLINE DATABASES AVAILABLE



Starting with the Summer Quarter, Humphreys College students and faculty will have a chance to use four new online research databases: **ProQuest**, **EBSCO**, **LexisNexis**, and **H. W. Wilson**.

The new databases will supplement the existing Web subscriptions that include **CCH Tax**, serving predominantly business and law students, **WestLaw for Paralegals**, and **WestLaw**, **LexisNexis**, and **Lois Law** for Humphreys Law School students and faculty.

“YOU’VE GOT HUMPHREYS E-MAIL?”

Did you know you have your very own Humphreys College e-mail account? There are several ways to access it, but the fastest is...

1. Open your favorite Web browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, etc.) and enter "mail.humphreys.edu" in the address bar.
2. Enter your student ID number followed by "@student" as your username – like this: 11111@student. (Your ID number is on your report card. You can also call the Registrar’s Office to find out what it is.)
3. Enter your full eight-digit birthdate -- like this: MMDDYYYY -- as your password.
4. Click "Login"!
5. Once in, go to 'Options' and then 'Settings' and select your name, instead of your number, as your primary e-mail address so your Humphreys e-mail address will look like this -- firstname.lastname@student.humphreys.edu
6. Don’t forget to change your password to something you will remember.

Starting in August, the College will begin sending important information to your Humphreys e-mail address, so please follow the steps above to get your account ready.

The fall schedule will first be sent to all students via their Humphreys e-mail addresses; after a few weeks, the schedule will be printed as usual.

Other vital communications to students from the College will occur through the Humphreys e-mail accounts so that by January 2009 students will be responsible for reading e-mails sent to their accounts.

Oh, by the way, you can use your Humphreys e-mail accounts for other purposes too.

mail Enable

Please enter your Username and Password to log on.

Username:

Password:

Skin:

Language:

Remember my settings for this computer

HOW TO SUCCEED IN COLLEGE



The Spring 2008 series “How to Succeed in College” featured several internal and external speakers. **Santa Lopez-Minatre** and **Lisa Kooren** hosted the *New Student Orientation*. **Linda Rahmoller** returned

to instruct students in the MLA formatting of research papers in the newly installed *Windows Vista* operating system. **Jason Wolins**’s topic—*From Baby Boomers to Millennials*—was derived from one of the latest faculty workshops about the generational specifics of a student population. **Rowena Walker** introduced a new presentation format of the series, designed to explore the frontier of various academic disciplines; the participants enjoyed her views about philosophy.

Towards the end of the quarter, **Kay Reindl** and **Bruce Bodine**, the instructors of the Court Reporting Program, talked about their life and work in the ongoing *Conversation with...*; the event was hosted by Humphreys student **Anne Poggio-Castillou**.



ACADEMIC COUNCIL WORKSHOP DR. GENE BIGLER ON LATIN AMERICAN - U.S. RELATIONS

The latest educational effectiveness workshop sponsored by the Academic Council hosted a distinguished specialist in Latin American studies, UOP’s Professor **Gene Bigler**. In a two-hour presentation, the speaker went “beyond the news” and commented on various current issues associated with the latest development in Latin America. Dr. Bigler focused on the real or potential impact of Latin-American social, political, and economic conflicts upon the United States. He paid special attention to the development in the countries in which he served as a diplomat, including Venezuela, Panama, and Cuba.

LANGUAGE LANGUISHES

By Michael Duffett

One of the great pleasures (among many!) of working at this college is the kind of cultural shorthand I enjoy in conversation with my fellow-European Dr. Perkner. Notice I say “fellow-European” rather than “fellow non-American.” By this terminology I am giving what the politicians call a “positive spin” to what might be construed as negative. I have stated before in this space, and it is worth repetition, that I am a great admirer of this great country. The occasional and, I confess, increasingly more frequent, negative criticism of it that I make does not necessarily come from a non-American (certainly not an anti-American) perspective. I share with Professor Becerra (who, I believe, calls herself “basically liberal”), Mrs. Walker (who calls herself “basically moderate”) and Dean Bonds (who calls himself “independent conservative”) a profound concern at what I think we all see as a growing betrayal of core American (not to say, universal) values.

An example from political life: when Senator Clinton was asked recently if she thought that Senator Barack Obama (whose first name, by the way, means “blessed” in the language of Islam) is a Muslim, she replied, “Not as far as I know.” The only honest response would have been a resounding negative, especially since she enjoyed the luxury of criticizing Obama’s supposed association with the views of his Christian pastor. Her response clearly had a shrewd political eye on the 17 % of the American population which believes, erroneously, foolishly and ignorantly, that Mr. Obama *is* a Muslim.

In my classes, I have become increasingly aware of the lack of knowledge of political terminology and it worries me. Right for conservative and Republican and left for Democrat and liberal may be overly simplistic, but it is where more sophisticated discourse can, and without which cannot, begin.

Anyway, back to my conversation with Dr. Perkner. He was searching and puzzling over Clinton’s behavior for how, as he said “you say in English ‘Deus ex machine.’” Well, Stan, we say just that and so used by Americans in a more educated era. It means “god out of the machine” or “sudden bit of good luck” but needs no translation in a culture grounded in education of the classics. America used to be, and, now that, at the request of students in this college, I am teaching “Language and Literature of the Ancient World” (next session next quarter) may, in this little corner of American culture at Humphreys at least, be on the way back.



Poetry to Ponder...

DIGGERS

*There they stand,
Hoe and shovel in hand,
Digging in the soil,
Of the hard land.*

*The sun beats down.
There is no shade.
The work is unending.
Slow progress is made.*

*Their backs are bent,
Moving up and down.
Sweat pours from faces.
There is no letdown.*

*The rhythm of nature,
Must be met,
Carried out only,
By work and sweat.*

*The land must be ready,
At nature's call.
Seeds are to be planted,
To feed us all.*

*Many things important,
For what it is worth,
Stem from those efforts,
To dig in the earth.*

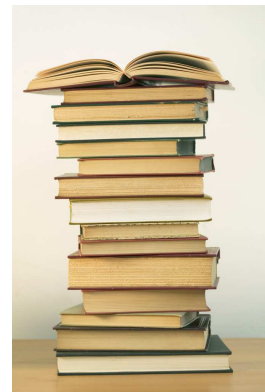
~ Wallace F. Caldwell

THE CORNERS OF CHURCHES

*"There is more faith in honest doubt,
Believe me, than in all the creeds"
-Tennyson*

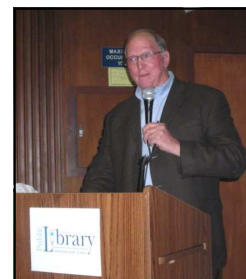
*I stood in the center for years and years
Filling the pulpit, addressing the pews,
Offering optimism, giving clues
Of a hope beyond sadness and tears.
Now I'm a visitor who sometimes hears
Others who fill a minister's shoes.
When I was up there, no don'ts or do's
Sprinkled my unwilling listeners' ears.
Now what I hear from the corner of churches
Are certainties I never felt.
I hear a young man who proudly lurches
With certainties to make ice caps melt.
I sit in the corner and wish him well,
Wish him escape from certainty's hell.*

~ Michael Duffett



COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Dr. Howard Lachtman**, adjunct lecturer in the Liberal Arts Department, won the first-place award for fiction in the adult category of the Stockton Art Commission's 2008 short story competition. Lachtman was cited for his story, "Memo from Human Resources," the tale of a corporate executive assigned the mysterious case of an exemplary employee who has ceased to be a role model. The award was presented by SAC director Deena Heath in May 17 ceremonies at the Stockton Arena honoring adult and student writers in the three genres (short story, essay, and poetry) of the annual writing competition.
- Law School student **Arsenio Mataka** received a fellowship from the American Bar Association's Environmental Law Section. He will spend the summer working in the Mayor's Office in Los Angeles.
- **Summer trips** of graduating students: **Mary Conte**, who is finishing her AA degree in Liberal Arts, will enjoy a trip to Italy, a gift from her boyfriend, which will provide her with the rest she'll need before beginning her BA program in the fall. **Caleb Maher**, who is finishing up his BS degree in Business Management, will enjoy a trip to the Greek Islands. He will be accompanied by his wife, whose family owns a summer home there.
- A Waterloo BBQ dinner offered at Humphreys College to benefit the **Laurence Drivon School of Law Bar Association** will be held on **Friday, June 27, 2008**. All you need to do is pick up your dinner in the east parking lot from **5:00 to 6:30 p.m.** At \$10 per meal that sounds like a real deal. Make checks payable to HSBA.



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