

# Humphreys College

## NEWSLETTER SUPPLEMENT

SPRING QUARTER

JUNE 2012

### MY YEARS AS CHAIR OF PARALEGAL STUDIES

By Rowena Walker, Associate Professor



Very soon—in June, as a matter of fact—I will be stepping down as Chair of the Legal Studies Department, formerly called the Paralegal Studies Department, a position I have held proudly for over 30 years. Because I can't bear the thought of leaving Humphreys College, I will continue to be a professor in the Liberal Arts Department as long as the College will have me! Mr. Stephen Choi, Chair of the Criminal Justice Department, has been appointed to direct the Legal Studies Department along with Criminal Justice, clearly signifying the administration's faith in his ability and general talent.

Being Chair of the Legal Studies Department has been a remarkable journey for me, a journey that I would like to share with you, not because of any particular ability of mine, but rather as a testimony to the respected role of Humphreys College in the large legal community of Stockton and surrounding counties. This growing respect has not only provided an opportunity for hundreds of students to attend our law school over the years, but it has opened up new possibilities for our undergraduate students to become part of that legal community by studying to serve in positions such as secretarial, administrative, and paralegal or legal assistants, as they are often called. While the College continued to focus on training students for jobs in the business world—and legal secretarial positions as well—the reputation of Humphreys College grew strong in legal education, opening the doors for these additional occupational areas, such as the relatively new paralegalism. These new developments coincided with my early days at the College. Doors opened for us to develop new programs, and we decided to keep those doors open. Moreover, I was able to squeeze through those doors.

I came to the college in 1977. The legal course offerings for students were respectable but slim. That was because the field of paralegalism was very new. But thanks to the foresight of Mrs. Gladys Humphreys, wife of then President John R. Humphreys, father of the current President, Robert G. Humphreys, and grandfather of current Dean of Instruction, Robert G. Humphreys, Jr., the College offered a Certificate of Completion in Paralegal Studies, which required six paralegal courses. It didn't take long to see that we needed to offer more paralegal courses—courses that not only taught procedural skills, but substantive law as well. That's where I came in. President Humphreys put me to work thinking up more classes for these new paralegals.

I didn't know much about the law. My degrees are in Political Science. But I went to work and learned. We added a few more courses—little by little. One day, some representatives from Modesto Junior College called on us saying that they heard we were offering these new paralegal courses, and could we please go down to their campus and teach one or two of them per quarter. First, we suggested that we have an evening gathering on the MJC campus where interested people could come and hear about paralegal studies. I was sent to give the presentation. I was stunned at the turnout. There were 90 people in attendance that night! (They were polite enough not to laugh at me after they surely noticed that I was wearing two different shoes that had two different heel heights!) They even gave me an office where I could advise students for two hours, one day per week.

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So, we began offering courses in Modesto, and that was the beginning there for us. After having been in two or three different settings for our courses in Modesto over the years, it grew substantially. It was the beginning for us in another way; we expanded our entire college degree offerings in Modesto over the years, and we now have a full-fledged campus there.

Additionally, since being on another campus (Modesto) had obviously gone to our heads, we approached the Merced College and offered to teach legal courses there with Merced lawyer/teachers—and they happily welcomed the idea. (Strangely enough, I even enjoyed driving down there once a week to hold office hours. Merced is an old and charming town.) After we had been there a few years, Merced decided to develop its own paralegal program.

Somewhere in all of this time it occurred to me—when I was doing all the driving, of course—that we needed more than a certificate to offer paralegal students. I was learning that paralegals were often given a higher level of responsibility than legal secretaries and needed more courses and more requirements. I approached President Humphreys and suggested that he consider our developing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Paralegal Studies, becoming a Bachelor of Arts in 2004. He almost immediately gave the go-ahead to begin work on the curriculum. By that time, there were one or two other colleges that were doing that as well; the American Bar Association began developing guidelines for paralegal studies bachelor-degree programs. Just in time for us! We waited for its guidelines, adopted them into our program, and we were on our way. We decided not to actually seek ABA Approval for our program—we were accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges—and felt that was sufficient.

However, the fun part of my whole experience—yes, there was a fun part—was when I finally woke up one day and realized that I had gotten in over my head in this paralegal program. In short, I began to feel that I really didn't know enough about the legal world to be advising anybody, let alone writing a full curriculum! It wasn't actually fun to realize that, but the solution to the problem turned out to be great.

I decided to ask three lawyers who were teaching in our program if they would please be advisers. I told them that I needed help—that I had reached the point where I wasn't sure what I was doing. They readily agreed to meet with me regularly and help in any way they could. The wonderful three individuals, whom I later and regularly called the “Three Bears,” were David Wellenbrock, Phil Urie (now a judge) and George Abdallah (also a judge now). They were careful and attentive regarding the curriculum—wanted it to be a good balance between substantive and procedural law, which it is. I still look back with complete gratefulness to the Three Bears. It was just a few years and then they let me fly alone. They did continue to be excellent instructors, however, and served as the backbone of the faculty.

As the years have gone by, there have been many changes, most of which haven't made me panic as they used to. The Department has grown with students, however, and I worry that I miss helping some of them who are worried about the world of work—especially the legal world where it's important not to make mistakes! The real highlight of it all has really been the joy I have had in working with and teaching students. Admittedly, I don't miss the administrative paper work, which is getting increasingly difficult for me, and it is for that reason that I felt I needed to step down. There will always be changes that are necessary, and it is important that they be done right.

So that is my journey. I cherish the time and am grateful to those who gave me the chance!

May 17, 2012

## ***CHILD OFF HWY 99***

*By Catherine Webster*

because out comes moist starry night to tease and kiss clover and brome  
into bloom  
because hovering starry night pierces hairroots in my San Joaquin  
farmsoil,  
bulbs swell with juices from tiniest white onions to baby blue eyes  
with night's hum. But because  
you, San Joaquin Planning Commission, behind your microphones,  
to smother the musk-smell of valley soil with steel and concrete  
because your naïve-as-a-child's eyes and mouths are shut to night's  
delicate gift to  
San Joaquin Valley, rapt night has touched his lips' wonderment to my lips--

I, Catherine Webster, dew on my lips, on cheeks, in my hair,  
am like urgent summer night, yearning to be born, year after year, a  
burning green oat, wheat, grass leaf,  
I flaunt my own dew-sweet fleshy roots, straining for this farmland,  
because I'll be irrigated, hoed, thinned,  
picked, tossed into lugs boxes,  
my yearnings and feelings for this soil are every San Joaquin farmers' in the  
county--I am this county's bard,  
...I sing of my own regal grace, lithe form, I reek of the abundance

(\$874,620,000 county gross value ag-production) I reap off our county's  
prime farmland--  
farmlands of statewide importance, unique farmlands, farmlands of local  
importance, grazing lands from  
Roberts Island East, off Highway 99 to Victor Road, Clements Road,  
Linden Road  
I sing the poem of my incredible SOIL  
when I squeeze loam in my hand, mash it,

my breaths get hot, come as fast as mating jack rabbits' thump and rut;  
when I squeeze soil, in my heart and blood  
I'm wet, underarms and my mouth, sticky with green, I blurt out  
the blessing gathered behind my eyes--  
I'm the pulse of the Linden farmer's wild  
pangs to couple with me--I'm the holiness  
in every farmer's mating call: "get them goddamn fat-as-ticks cows  
onto the truck,"  
"don't ride the cows so close,"  
"heee yyya those pretty cows outa this corral,"  
"lookit my cows--sleek and female hips to hocks, glory me,"  
Because I feel the stirring when the moon rubs a shine into my  
donkey's eyes  
and behind my knees, I hear in ten-thousand sweet rye heads  
rubbing a song that I Catherine,  
am Holy

*Continued on next page*

I'm the Kingdom of HEAVEN... and to any man who has put  
down his shovel  
the shovel, for this deep deep soil, I'm will come to you,  
an unabashed, the ploughing farmer in the field feels good  
groin large and getting tighter at the sound of my poem,  
bone-strengthening, heroic, wonderful, I do not deny any of them  
my flower, I'm springtime burning  
in carrots and sugarbeets  
swelling the farmer's thick roots, I'm here, again, that craving in me

for soil's good health sparked  
by a single engine flare, pistons pulling crank case,  
"Shove the stick into low, ease her, ease her into reverse, kick  
the clutch in and get that tractor moving," those that know me seek me  
here in loam, I thrive on my body's itch  
to breathe and bloom  
for the sake of San Joaquin Soil, shove the black gear nob into low,  
to chug out across 400 acres of incredible soil,

to luxuriate in Mendez's, Podesta's, or Boggiano's grit caught  
between my teeth,  
together, with you, dear reader, find loam, scrape hipholes  
then, our fingers interlocking, arm-in-arm,  
my lush thighs as spiritual as dew on a Merlot grape cluster  
your biceps as visibly masculine as sweet corn,  
as the rump muscles flexing as a bull calf struts calf's rump and  
testicles swaying  
to become myself, I flaunt my want to hold Solari's grandfather's shovel  
my want for my children, Sarah and Matthew, to wear their  
grandfather's  
pocket watch, belt, and Stretson hat,  
On farms with barns stacked against the 6<sup>th</sup> drought year  
in Linden, Lockerford, Clements, Galt, Bellota, Peters,  
I am prayer at the dinner table...

...I'm ass-kicking gumption  
I want san Joaquin Country's kids east of Hwy 99 to mouth an  
almond blossom  
caress the peach blossom's spread petals  
I want my children to gently lip the pistil's rigid legs  
I want the nectar that sweetens my grandson's first fruit  
as his teeth tingle deep in his gums  
I want the fruit to drive him wild with hunger, make him desperate  
I want to share my graddaughter's early blooming plum,  
I want my children to split a ripe peach with their fingers, to feel the  
thrilling  
likeness of peach, in me

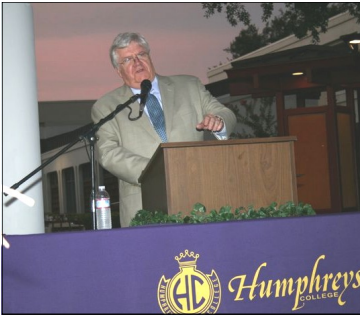
*Catherine Webster*

*(1944 - 2012)*



## FROM LAURENCE DRIVON SCHOOL OF LAW ... **GRADUATION INTERVIEW WITH DEAN L PATRICK PIGGOTT**

### **How many law students graduated in May 2012?**



*This year, we had 49 students eligible to graduate; 47 have elected to participate in the May graduation: 22 men and 25 women. The average age is 35. We have three graduates who came from other countries and earned their undergraduate degrees there—one in Nigeria, one in Pakistan, and one in Russia. They all now live and work in the United States. We also have our first foreign student. Hongil Choi is from Korea. His goal is to represent firms that trade between the two countries.*

*This year's Valedictorian was Vladimir Kozina and the Salutatorian Connor Shelton. Vladimir is the Head of the Science Department at St. Mary's High School. His father and brother are local attorneys. Connor entered law school when he was 17. Now, at the age of 21, he was our youngest ever to graduate.*

### **Under your leadership, the law program has become well known for many curricular innovations. Introduce at least some of them.**

*Four years ago, we began an experiment with starting first year classes more often than once a year. Traditional students don't always graduate in June these days and many did not want to wait a whole year. At present, we begin first year classes three times a year, in August, November, and February. This has been a factor in the large growth of the law school.*

*Additionally, we now offer many opportunities to our students that did not exist three years ago. We have a Law Fraternity and the Black Law Student Association, both national organizations. Our Professional Training Program includes clinics, internships, and the representation of parolees in the Re-entry Courts downtown. This quarter, we began the clinics sessions in Modesto.*

*The law program offers a varied schedule to allow new mothers to take one quarter off and return to classes after maternity leave. This requires that we schedule at least two sections in all first and second year courses.*

### **How does the Law School cooperate with community?**

*The Law School is very active. We are the only law school in the country, a non-member of the American Bar Association, hosting a chapter of the American Inns of Court. This special organization brings judges, lawyers, and law students together each month in a social and interactive setting. It is a wonderful opportunity for our fourth-year students and serves as a reward for top grades.*

*Some of our students teach constitutional law in local high schools. For two years, we have presented this program at the Intercollegiate High School downtown. Just a few weeks ago, we invited 36 eighth-grade students at the Courthouse to observe four proceedings. Judge Franklin Stephenson, a Humphreys graduate, welcomed them and took time to explain his activities that day.*

*The school has interns in the District Attorney offices in Stanislaus County and San Joaquin County, as well as the Public Defenders offices and with the California Rural Legal Assistance branches in both counties.*

### **Can you introduce your faculty members and their involvement in the law program?**

*At the present time, only the Dean and Professor Archie Bakerink are full-time academic employees. The courses are taught by 40 adjunct instructors. David Wellenbrock, Chris Eley, and Phyllis Berger have been with the school for many*

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years and bring great depth to the team. Every second year, we organize a faculty retreat; this time, we met in Monterey. Our guest speakers were Dean and Karin Barbieri; Dean was responsible for the California Bar Examination for over 20 years and his wife has been a Bar grader and expert in Bar Examinations, working for Louisiana and other states' Bar organizations. The presentation was very informative: how the examination works, how it is set up and graded, and how we can prepare our students to take it successfully.

The whole faculty meets quarterly. The main business of the Law School is conducted through its own Executive Committee; it requires 20 years of experience to qualify as a member. Presently, Judge Stephen Demetras, Chris Eley, and Professor Jim Martin are the adjunct faculty members.



### **What is the overall demographics of the law program's student population?**

Besides the foreign-educated students mentioned above, our graduates come from an amazing array of colleges: Eight University of California graduates from Berkeley, Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara, Davis, and San Diego; out-of-state undergraduates from the universities of Colorado, Maryland, and Southern Florida; we have Cal Poly and USC graduates, along with 15 graduates from the CSU system, seven from Stanislaus, seven from Sacramento, and one from Chico. There are two graduates of Humphreys undergraduate programs - Violeta Diaz and Julissa Echevarria.

The youngest student is 21 and the oldest is 62.

### **How do you see the overall trends of legal education--and legal profession--in the United States in general and in California in particular?**

There is much fear expressed about the future for new lawyers in the state and in the country. I don't see that happening to our graduates. The cost of the schools accredited by the American Bar Association has become astronomical, and their graduates cannot afford to take entry-level jobs; ours can. Tuition at McGeorge Law School is about \$165,000 for the program, and at the UC law schools it is now up to \$130,000. You can still finish our Law School with tuition at \$47,000 for the whole program.

~Stanislav Perkner

### **Editorial Note:**

**The Law School hosts an information night for general public every second Tuesday of each month, at 7 p.m. Everyone interested in the law program is welcome.**

**Laurence Drivon School of Law was founded in 1951.**

**Law students earn a Juris Doctor degree in three to five years of evening study, which qualifies them to take the California Bar Examination leading to the practice of law in California.**

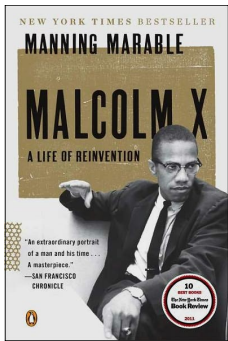
**For more information, call Humphreys College's Admission Office or the Office of the Law School Dean at (209) 478-0800 or visit the college website ([www.humphreys.edu](http://www.humphreys.edu)).**

FROM THE LIBRARY AND LEARNING CENTER ...

**NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY**  
**PULITZER PRIZE 2012 WINNERS:**  
**HISTORY AND GENERAL NON-FICTION**

**Life beyond the Legend: A New Biography of Malcolm X**

📖 Manning Marable. *Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention*. New York: Penguin, 2011



This best selling book written by the late Manning Marable is an exploration of the legendary life and provocative views of one of the most significant African Americans in U.S. history. The book separates fact from fiction and blends the heroic and tragic. Marable (1951-2011) directed African American Studies at Columbia University and its Center for Contemporary Black History. The author of fifteen books, Marable was also the editor of the quarterly journal *Souls*.

Filled with surprising new information and many revelations, *Malcolm X* unfolds a sweeping story of race and class in America. Reaching into Malcolm's troubled youth, it traces a path from his parents' activism as followers of Marcus Garvey through his own work with the Nation of Islam and rise in the world of Black Nationalism. It culminates in the never-before-told true story of his assassination. *Malcolm X* is the definitive work on its protagonist and his generation.

Unfortunately, Manning Marable passed away just days before Malcolm's biography reached stores. The towering achievement of this book, which took the author almost two decades to complete, is his ability to present Malcolm X as a flawed, struggling human being, as much at odds with his government as with himself. Marable follows the same narrative path as did Haley's autobiography, but filling in the gaps and fine-tuning the exaggerations of that best-selling volume. Combing through FBI and NYPD files, gathering Nation of Islam interviews, and documenting Malcolm's activities abroad, Marable presents a more complex portrait of a man constantly in search of himself and his place in America.

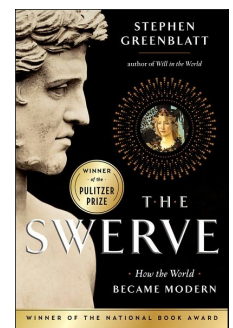
The new biography of Malcolm X can supplement the basic textbooks in numerous Humphreys' courses, including History of the United States, American Institutions, Introduction to Philosophy, Great Religions, and Modern World Issues.

**The Story of a Lost Manuscript**

📖 Stephen Greenblatt. *The Swerve: How the World Became Modern*. New York: Norton, 2011

Harvard's Shakespearean scholar Stephen Greenblatt has completed both an innovative work of history and a thrilling story of discovery, in which one manuscript, plucked from a thousand years of neglect, changed the course of human thought and made possible the world as we know it.

Nearly six hundred years ago, in the winter of 1417, the Italian book collector Poggio Bracciolini took a very old Latin manuscript off an obscure monastery shelf in Germany, saw with excitement what he had discovered, and ordered that it be copied. That book, written around 50 B.C., was the last surviving manuscript of an ancient Roman philosophical epic, *On the Nature of Thing (De rerum natura)*, by the Roman philosopher Lucretius (99 BC-55 BC). It was a long poem full of the most dangerous ideas: that the universe may function without the aid of gods, that religious fear was damaging to human life, and that matter was made up of very small particles in



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eternal motion, colliding and swerving in new directions. Greenblatt insists, that Bracciolini was not only rescuing a masterpiece of Epicurean poetry, but he was also planting the roots of an age beyond superstition and dogma. (The English translation of the poem is available here: <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/785/785-h/785-h.htm>.)

The copying and translation of this ancient book fueled the Renaissance. It inspired artists such as Botticelli and thinkers such as Giordano Bruno; shaped the thought of Galileo and Freud, Darwin and Einstein; and had a revolutionary influence on writers such as Montaigne, Shakespeare, and Thomas Jefferson.

It is surprising to learn how few classical works managed to survive into the Middle Ages. According to Greenblatt,

*Apart from [some] charred papyrus fragments recovered from [a villa near Pompeii], there are no surviving contemporary manuscripts from the ancient Greek and Roman world. Everything that has reached us is a copy, most often very far removed in time, place and culture from the original. And these copies represent only a small portion of the works even of the most celebrated writers of antiquity. [For instance,] [o]f Aeschylus' 80 or 90 plays and the roughly 120 by Sophocles, only seven each have survived.*

One of the ancients whose works seemed to have completely disappeared was Lucretius, whose name was mentioned in some other classical works that did survive.

Stephen Greenblatt, Professor of the Humanities at Harvard University, is also the General Editor of *The Norton Shakespeare* and the author of eleven books, including *Shakespeare's Freedom*, *Will in the World: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare*, and *Hamlet in Purgatory*. Along with Greenblatt's books on Shakespeare, *The Swerve* has a potential to enrich Humphreys' courses of humanities, including Philosophy and Art and Music Appreciation, and some courses in the social and behavioral field, especially the History of Western Civilization.

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