

# HU Highlights

STUDENT & ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

## A Champion for the Student: Santa Lopez-Minatre

BY JULIE WALKER, DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS



Santa Lopez-Minatre left Humphreys this year. It was a sad day when she told us that she was retiring--kind of. Mind you, she had been telling us that since at least 2022, so we mostly took it with a grain of salt. It became a bit of a joke around the office. You could frequently hear any of us saying, "I'll believe it when I see it." Yes, I am poking fun at Santa, but really, this was quite revealing of her. She LOVED her job. She did not want to retire. She loved working with the students; she loved working with her colleagues; and she had such a heart for Humphreys University.

Santa started working at Humphreys in April of 1997. She was interviewed by Dr. Humphreys and Wilma Okamoto-Vaughn and clearly made a good impression from the beginning. She had worked at Heald College for several years before Humphreys was fortunate enough to recruit her. When I first started working in admissions in 2013, Santa became my immediate supervisor. What a joy! She created such a nice working environment in the office, and I learned many things from her. She had a way of talking with the students that immediately put them at ease. I think it is safe to say that anybody who worked with Santa was impressed by her connection to the Stockton community. How many times did we hear, "Oh, yes, I think my uncle's son's stepdad went to school with your father!" I do not exaggerate! Six degrees of separation? That is Santa they are talking about! Somehow, everybody in Stockton leads to Santa! If, for some flukish reason, Santa did not have a connection to the potential student, then she would immediately forge one by asking probing (totally appropriate) questions. The students just loved talking to her. Santa was so curious about everybody, and it was a sincere curiosity. The students felt that. Santa enjoyed all aspects of her job. She loved to attend the State of the City, events with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and of course, all veteran-related events. There was a special place in her heart for veterans, and Santa would go above and beyond to help them feel comfortable at Humphreys. She was always an advocate for the students. It was a sad day when we all realized that Santa meant it this time--she really was going to retire. We couldn't quite believe it. This truly was the end of an era. We miss you, Santa. You have left your indelible imprint on Humphreys University.

## A Distinguished Career: Dr. Jess Bonds

BY CYNTHIA BECERRA, DEAN OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Hired on July 2, 1990, as a full-time faculty member in the court reporting and general education programs, Jess Bonds has been a major leader in our advancement as an institution of higher education including achieving WASC Senior Accreditation in 1992. Over the 34 years of his tenure at Humphreys University, he has worn many academic titles—chair of the liberal arts department, dean of undergraduate studies, dean of graduate studies, WASC liaison, and finally, Provost. (I know I probably missed a few!) Now, he has relinquished his full-time role and will continue to serve on a part-time basis as the Chair of the Master of Arts in Education. In recognition of his service to the college, the Executive Committee, led by President Humphreys, hosted a retirement luncheon at Papapavlo's for him. Many shared stories of both the personal and professional impact he had on each of them. Without a doubt, his professionalism, dedication, and integrity, as well as his sense of humor, resonated with each vignette recounted. Together with his wife Kim and his family that has now grown to include grandson Miles, he plans to enjoy some free time to travel, to work on his ranch, and catch up on his reading.

## Dr. Richard Chabot Leaves a Legacy: Professor, Community Advocate, and Mentor

BY CYNTHIA BECERRA, DEAN OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES



Coordinator of the Community Studies Program since 1997, Dr. Richard Chabot has carved an important legacy into the lengthy history of Humphreys University. With his insightful and focused study of community, he has led the development of new connections with other departments, including Criminal Justice with courses like Police and Community and Criminology. Moreover, Richard Chabot has been an active member of the Academic Senate, the seat of faculty governance, for his entire career. From 2021 to 2023, he was a pivotal member of the WASC Task Force that prepared a final response about key academic issues to our Senior Accrediting Commission; this response played a critical role in our receiving reaccreditation and reaffirmed his leadership role at our institution.

Whether chairing program review committees, judging Halloween costumes, or managing the annual sock drive for the homeless, Dr. Chabot is a tireless leader who deserves recognition and admiration for his commitment to our college community. From student advising to directing his community studies students in their internships and their social research and proposal writing, Richard is a consummate educator who will remain at our institution as a part-time instructor.

Dr. Chabot now will have more time to spend with his wife Marie hiking through scenic mountain trails in Washington and California and visiting with their son Jacob.



## EXPLORE THE VERSATILITY OF A CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEGREE

BY DUANE MCLAUGHLIN, CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT CHAIR

A criminal justice degree is more than a gateway to a career in law enforcement—it's a versatile qualification that opens up a wide array of career opportunities across various sectors. While many graduates choose to pursue traditional roles in policing, this degree offers so much more. It equips students with essential skills in critical thinking, communication, ethical decision-making, and problem-solving, all of which are highly transferable to a multitude of professions.

The versatility of a criminal justice degree is one of its greatest strengths. Although many graduates follow paths in law enforcement, the field extends far beyond. Career opportunities include roles such as probation officer, parole officer, and correctional treatment specialist who work to rehabilitate offenders and assist with their reintegration into society. Federal positions with agencies like the FBI, DEA, or Homeland Security also become accessible, offering roles that address national security and federal crimes.

Graduates can also make a significant impact within the corrections system. Whether serving as correctional officers, case managers, or prison administrators, these professionals are instrumental in rehabilitating offenders and developing programs to support their transformation. Additionally, the burgeoning fields of cybersecurity and digital forensics offer exciting opportunities to combat cybercrime. Specialists in these areas work to prevent and investigate online fraud, hacking, and identity theft, while digital forensic investigators analyze electronic devices to collect crucial evidence for modern crime investigations.

The rise of cybercrime has created a demand for fraud investigation specialists, particularly within financial institutions. These experts work to uncover and resolve cases of embezzlement, fraud, and other financial crimes, safeguarding the integrity of financial systems. For those passionate about research, criminology offers a path to studying the causes of crime and criminal behavior. Criminologists contribute to shaping policies and strategies that prevent crime and enhance public safety. They may work in academic, governmental, or private sectors, analyzing crime patterns, evaluating rehabilitation outcomes, and proposing justice system reforms.

Criminal justice graduates with a passion for advocacy can find fulfilling roles within nonprofit organizations dedicated to criminal justice reform. These advocates work towards policies on prison reform, sentencing fairness, and civil rights protections. Restorative justice coordinators also play a crucial role by facilitating programs that seek to reconcile offenders with their victims, focusing on healing and accountability rather than mere punishment.

Beyond specific career roles, a criminal justice degree imparts valuable transferable skills. The curriculum emphasizes critical thinking, communication, and ethical decision-making, preparing graduates to tackle complex situations, analyze evidence, and make informed decisions—skills essential in various fields, from public relations to business.

A criminal justice degree offers a wealth of career opportunities and essential skills applicable across numerous industries. Graduates are well-equipped for diverse roles, from law enforcement and corrections to cybersecurity and advocacy. Most importantly, this degree empowers individuals to contribute to societal safety, fairness, and justice, making it a profoundly rewarding choice for those dedicated to positive change.

## THE LIBRARY AND LEARNING CENTER: RESOURCES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

BY DONNA ROBERTS, DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY & LEARNING CENTER

The Humphreys University Library and Learning Center serves students, faculty, and the campus community. Hours of operation are Monday-Thursdays, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. during the quarter. Students may log in remotely to access the extensive online databases for research and information. EBSCO, Global Road Warrior, and A-To-Z Maps Online are key offerings that allow students access to a wealth of knowledge on various topics. Students are welcome to visit the Library for easy access to computer technology to engage in virtual class sessions, complete assignments, and for any printing needs. Additionally, the Library provides a quiet and professional area available for student use in the evenings. Library Staff are available to answer questions and support student success. Additionally, the Learning Center provides students with friendly and highly skilled tutoring support in various subjects including English Grammar, Writing, Mathematics, Accounting, Databases, and General Reference. A professor or instructor may recommend/require a student for a tutoring session to improve various skillsets for course success. Additionally, a student may voluntarily seek tutoring support. Either way, students simply need to contact the Library to set up an appointment for distance tutoring. If a student is not familiar with Zoom, the tutor will walk the student through downloading the free app and get them connected with ease. Visit the Humphreys University today or give us a call at 209-235-2907 for more information.

## HENRY CHAN LIBRARY



## WHAT IS CPT (CURRICULAR PRACTICAL TRAINING)?

BY LINDA RAHMOLLER, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, CPT COORDINATOR



CPT or Curricular Practical Training allows international students that are currently enrolled in a program of study to obtain employment. Employment must be directly related to the student's major area of study. It is an integral part of the Humphreys' MBA International Program established curriculum and is required for students enrolled in the MBA IT and MBA Leadership concentrations. CPT provides students with the opportunity to see first-hand the influence, impact, and application of their courses to their employment and, conversely allows students to examine their role in the working environment and how it enables them to practically comprehend the theoretical aspects of the course. The students engaged in the CPT program include varied industries and occupations such as civil engineers, consultants, security risk managers, data scientists for customer service solutions, software developers for major department stores, systems reliability engineers, credit risk managers, and software developers.

## OUTREACH IN THE COMMUNITY

BY JULIE WALKER, DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS

College fair season is in full swing! The Admissions Department has been busy recruiting. Since the new school year began, we have attended five events, with more to come. This is a great opportunity not only to meet potential new students but also to meet the parents of those students. We are able to talk about the benefits of Humphreys, particularly the small classes and personalized attention. April had the opportunity to speak to several parents about our dual-enrollment program with ABLE. As we have seen, many times we end up recruiting the parents, who find Humphreys appealing for themselves! We have also attended college fairs at MJC and Merced College. These events happen every year right before the Labor Day weekend. The morning events are for the college students wishing to look for their transfer options; the evening events are for the area high school students. The evening events are very well attended, with students bringing their parents along to check out the options. San Joaquin Delta College hosted a college fair for San Joaquin and Calaveras County students. The turnout was impressive. Kevin Lincoln, the mayor of Stockton, was there! He was easy to identify since he was taller than most of the crowd! Special thanks to Pam Closs for attending the McNair event with April Huerta.

August 21- ABLE Charter Schools  
August 27- McNair High School for Lodi Unified  
August 28- Modesto Junior College  
August 29- Merced College  
September 4- San Joaquin Delta College



## THE ROLE OF A DESIGNATED SCHOOL OFFICIAL (DSO)

BY OLIVIA GASTON, DSO & MBA-IT ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR

Launched in the Fall of 2021, the MBA-IT program at Humphreys University, created in partnership with HMS, represents a major step forward in the university's dedication to global engagement and personalized attention. Combining a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Information Technology, this program quickly attracted a vibrant group of international students from around the world. Since its launch, the MBA-IT program has enriched the university's academic environment, providing a collaborative space for F-1 students to work together towards earning their MBA. This infusion of cultural diversity not only enhances our academic community but also highlights HU's dedication to inclusivity and progress. Building on its initial success, the program has expanded to include two new concentrations, Organizational Leadership and General Business, allowing students to extend their studies and further benefit from the unique opportunities offered at Humphreys University.

The Designated School Official (DSO) plays a crucial role in the academic journey of an international student. DSOs are authorized to oversee and manage the compliance of international students with U.S. immigration regulations. Olivia Gaston and Wendy Campigli are the current DSOs for HU. Dr. Bob Humphreys, Jr. serves as PDSO.

What Does a DSO Do?

**Compliance and Reporting:** DSOs ensure that both the institution and its international students adhere to U.S. immigration laws. This involves regular reporting to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and other governmental agencies.

**SEVIS Management:** A DSO's pivotal task is to manage student records through the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). This involves updating records, reporting changes in status, and ensuring that the student and institution remain compliant with federal regulations.

**Advising and Counseling:** DSOs provide essential guidance on visa regulations, helping students navigate complex immigration laws. This includes providing information on maintaining F-1 status, understanding work authorization options like Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and Optional Practical Training (OPT), and handling any issues related to visa status.

**Student Interactions:** DSOs engage with students from various cultural and academic backgrounds, providing a rich tapestry of interactions that enhance personal and professional growth. This diversity brings a global perspective to the role, fostering cross-cultural understanding.

**Problem Solving:** The job ensures that no two days are the same. Each student presents unique situations, typically requiring thorough research that keeps the work dynamic and challenging.

MEET

# Julie Walker



*Interview by Carrie Castillon, Director of Administrative Services*

*Julie Walker is the new Director of Admissions at Humphreys University. Julie has been with Humphreys University as an adjunct instructor since 2003 and as an admissions counselor since 2013 on both the Stockton and Modesto campuses. She serves as co-chair on the current Strategic Planning Committee. She is a team player and an asset to Humphreys University. Julie has been instrumental in increasing new enrollment, especially in the graduate education programs. She is a fervent champion for students and education.*

**What is your favorite restaurant?**

Casa Flores or any Mexican restaurant.

**What is the most important advice to give a new college student?**

Be realistic with yourself. Consider all of your commitments before you decide on how many units to take.

**As a Spanish instructor at HU, how beneficial is it for students to know another language?**

I really do not look at it as beneficial or not. I look at it as enriching. It is wonderful to be able to understand other cultures, and it is challenging to understand them well without knowledge of the language. Knowing how to speak Spanish has brought me so much joy. I cannot imagine my life only in English!

**What is your favorite part about being an admissions counselor?**

I enjoy meeting new students, but I particularly enjoy working with my colleagues. The admissions group at Humphreys is top notch, fun, and just a nice group of people!

**What book would you recommend every person read in their lifetime?**

That is funny that you ask that. I was just talking to my sister about how we really need to go back and read the classics. I find myself becoming a little "soft" with all the TV shows I watch. My first thought was to go back and read *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. This is a classic and so enjoyable to read. One book I have never read that I really need to get to is *The Count of Montecristo* by Alexander Dumas. It has been recommended to me by so many people over the years.



## Family Literacy Day at the Park

Humphreys University was proud to participate in Family Literacy Day at the Park at Weber Point on Saturday, September 21, 2024. Children and parents enjoyed our alphabet bingo activity! Several HU alumni dropped by the booth to say hello. It was a fun day promoting literacy in the community! --- Carrie Castillon and Cinthia Chiquete, Marketing Team



**Humphreys University**  
EST. 1896

**OUR MISSION**

Humphreys University prepares students for meaningful careers and professions through a high-quality educational experience, strongly informed by the liberal arts, and directed to the specific and changing needs of students from diverse ethnic, cultural, economic, and educational backgrounds.

**OUR VISION**

To be the community-recognized institution of choice, known for providing quality, student-focused, career-oriented, and affordable higher education that improves the lives of students and develops informed citizens.

**OUR CORE VALUES**

- We are an opportunity school that accepts, teaches, and elevates anyone with a desire and motivation to learn and improve.
- We excel at delivering a personalized, affordable, and accessible educational experience.
- We provide career-oriented education, aligned with career and skill demands, integrated into the professional community, and delivered by dedicated practitioner-educators.
- We exhibit a culture of adaptability and innovation to meet the demands of the future in the service of our students.