



# OMNILORE NEWS

Volume 12 Issue 2

March 2003

## OMNILORE NEWS

A publication of OMNILORE, a Learning in Retirement Organization affiliated with The Division of Extended Education of California State University Dominguez Hills

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*Omnilore News* is published six times annually. We welcome short feature articles and news stories. Please contact the editor with your contributions.

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## Forum Speaker Discloses Secrets

By Carol Kerster

**R**arely have examples of “learning the hard way” been described more vividly than those presented by **Patricia Hamilton** at our January Forum. When she informed us that the personal incidents she was going to tell were unknown to her boss at CSUDH, who was present, the incidents became all the more enticing.

With the insight, clarity and knowledge gained from many travels (to 65 countries), much study, (as much as possible before going to a new place), and a sheer love of adventure and exploration, she told us how she had escaped from a Uganda prison and how she had avoided marriage to an absolute stranger in Bora Bora. Never mind that the former sounded like a chapter from Kafka’s *The Trial*, nor that the near-husband was an unknown elder of an unknown tribe; and never mind that her rescue in both of these situations was engineered by heretofore unknown Italians, *Omnilorians* were enraptured by the words of a woman who could look at her experiences with humor and appreciation. (I would conjecture that her boss was enraptured, too!)

Additionally, we were treated to a wealth of cultural taboos and information testifying to Ms. Hamilton’s knowledge of specific customs in specific cultures, and to her belief in her own admonition to “find out all you can about a country to which you are traveling.” Needless to say, this practice was instituted in the years *after* the above-mentioned experiences!

A few examples: the Hindu honor of elephants as deities; wearing white as a sign of mourning in Cambodia; avoidance of beef in India and pork and shellfish by Jews and Moslems everywhere; the aroma of garlic to ward off evil spirits in Sweden; using one’s fingers to eat in Morocco, etc.

Finally, and with absolute conviction, Ms. Hamilton gave us what is clearly her credo, and which would serve us all well: “Embrace people from all over the world, and accept them for who they are.”

## Have You Heard of the . . . Computer & Technology Special Interest Group?

By Patricia Edie

**O**n the 2nd and 4th Friday afternoons of each month a growing number of *Omnilorians* are gathering in Room 8 to enhance their computer skills and explore new technology. The “C & T SIG” has something for everyone, from the new computer user to those with more experience. Short volunteer presentations by various members cover such topics as: overviews of various applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Netscape 7); e-mail how-to’s such as creating mail rules, handling attachments, creating distribution groups and mail folders; how to better use the Internet for research; how to protect your computer from viruses and hacking. Anyone is welcome to join us. Also, watch for our “Info Bytes . . .” in this and future newsletters (see page 5). For more information you can contact **Jay & Patricia Edie** (822-8549) or **Carol Johnson** (372-8535).

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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

*By George Clark*

Electronic technology and discussion questions for study/discussion group presentations. We and *Omniole* is right in step with it. The first example is computer technology. *Omniole* is using new technology for presentations. First, the Desktop Presenter replaced the old opaque projector, which sometimes tore or burned the illustration being displayed. Next, the new Scan Converter made it possible to display a computer screen on our television set. This opened the way

to using PowerPoint for presentations. And this isn't all. We are now buying a video projector that will allow us to project what we have been viewing on the television screen onto the big screens in Rooms 7 and 8 and also onto a big screen at the Forums. This addition will make it possible to show PowerPoint presentations, videotapes, or pages from a book, all on a big screen.



Let's make our presentations worthy of this technology!



**Brown Bag Science**

Think about joining the average 40-50 members who have been attending our Brown-Bag Science lectures. Here are the forthcoming topics; please mark up your green BBS calendar if you still have it. Remember, always the first Thursday of the month at noon .

- Mar. 6 Evolutionary Psychology Patricia Edie
- Apr. 3 Modern Linguistic Theory Terry Savage
- May 1 Quantum Theory Dan Stern
- June 5 Consciousness Terry Savage and Mike Scordan
- July 3 Astronomy-Cosmology subject not yet defined

On the first Thursday of March, **Patricia Edie** will examine the degree to which Darwinian Theory applies to the field of psychology - to what degree did natural selection evolve the structure of the mind? Patricia will summarize the chronological progression of various hypotheses and models about human nature and the mind; explain the Blank Slate Theory and alternate opinions. She'll define Evolutionary Psychology and present the views of proponents and opponents. She'll also present the most current approach of neurobiologists, "Cultural Biology," with pro and con views.

On the first Thursday of April come hear **Terry Savage** discuss alternative theories regarding our unique language ability. Linguistic theories impact the language learning approaches of teachers and students and have application for work on artificial intelligence. How does the mind create language? What are the characteristics and commonalities of the more than 6,000 extant languages? Why do children learn languages so easily? Terry will evaluate the theories as espoused by scientific wunderkind Noam Chomsky, as well as many not-so-famous worldwide cognitive scientists who focus on this subject.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

*Omniole's* Forum Luncheon  
Wednesday, April 30th

Come hear Dr. Gunnar Nielsson, Assistant Professor of International Relations at the University of Southern California, speak to us on Globalisim.

**Bright Ideas Solicited**

The Forum Committee is interested in any suggestions you may have for intriguing topics and/or for dynamic speakers. Please put your ideas in the Forum Committee box in Room 7.

established for needy university students. Early in 2001, with several individual contributions from *Omniole* members, and an amount approved by *Omniole's* Board of Directors, the *Omniole Student Activity Fund* was established.

Since its inception, the *Omniole Student Activity Fund* has provided gift certificates to worthy students to assist them in purchasing books and other supplies for their academic endeavors. *Omniole's* CSUDH lecture series has proved to be a win-win situation.

**The Omniole Student Activity Fund**

*By Blanche Herring*

In the fall of 2000, *Omniole* expanded its learning experience with the help of California State University Dominguez Hills. It was at this time that a series of lectures, exclusively for *Omniole* members had its start. The topic for the first series of seven meetings was politics, a fitting beginning for an election year. Since that time, the CSUDH lectures have been provided each fall and spring, giving *Omniole* members the opportunity to hear and discuss a variety of subjects with professors from a number of disciplines. Among topics presented to date have been ethics, the future, and cultural anthropology.

Following the end of that initial series of lectures, President **Emil Raulin** and series coordinator **John Taber** along with other *Omniole* participants in the initial lecture series discussed the great value they found in this new enterprise. They wanted a way to express appreciation to the university and its professors and proposed that a fund be



**Tiffany Lanoix**, sponsored by CSUDH Sociology Dept., receives an *Omniole* gift certificate from Dean Margaret Gordon, Extended Education (center) and Associate Dean, Joanne Zitelli.

## OMNIOLORE PROFILE – CHRISTINE RHODES

Born in Springfield, Illinois, Christine Rhodes, who is currently professor emeritus at the College of the Desert in Palm Desert, has spent her life in both Illinois and California

A member of Phi Theta Kappa sorority at Springfield College, Illinois, Christine taught in a one-room schoolhouse in central Illinois for two years before returning to college. Recipient of several scholarships, Christine attended classes at Illinois Wesleyan, the University of Denver, and the University of Redlands where she received her masters degree in music.

While at Illinois Wesleyan she married her professor, Harry Tomlinson, a professional musician, in 1946.

After they moved to Palm Springs she became professor of music at the College of the Desert. Five years ago the college inscribed her name on the Campus Walk of Knowledge.

Active in music circles in the Palm Springs area for three decades, Christine and Harry founded the Palm Springs Chorale which performed many major oratorios and choral works, and the Palm Springs Music Society which featured concert artists of the stature of Joseph Szigeti. With Harpo Marx on their board they enlisted Jack Benny to star in a benefit concert for the United Fund. Under Harry's direction, accompanied by Christine, the chorale

performed before a sold-out house that evening.

Christine and Harry raised three sons during their desert years before he passed away in 1975. In addition to her college responsibilities, Christine served as organist and choirmaster at several churches in the Palm Springs area, as well as serving as music director for the community's synagogue for 33 years. She became so interested in the Hebrew language while singing at the temple that she decided to study the language; and became so adept that she was able to assist students preparing for their Bar Mitzvahs and Bat Mitzvahs.

After her retirement she married Henry Rhodes, a retired marine engineer from Redondo Beach. For 17 years they traveled the world. They made train journeys across Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia. During a seven-week train jaunt from London to Hong Kong in 1981 they visited every country in Europe with the exception of Albania. They made a coastal trip from Norway to Kirkenes beyond the arctic circle.

They took a train again when they went from Cairo, Egypt to Cape Town, South Africa, and especially enjoyed Zimbabwe and Tanzania where they went on animal safaris.

In Malaysia they cruised from Singapore to Kuala Lumpur where they met up with Australian friends whom they

subsequently visited on a cross-country train trip across Australia.

When they cruised the Pacific they stopped at the Marquesas, remote islands en route to Hawaii.

In South America they visited every country except Venezuela and some small countries on the east coast. They crossed Lake Titicaca, the highest lake in the world, in a row boat.

Since moving to this area Christine has enjoyed attending performances at the Ahmanson Theatre and Mark Taper Forum. She joined *Omniole* after being widowed in 1995.

She is currently studying Spanish with both a private group and an adult education class. In addition, she practices yoga and Tai Chi and attends two series of Los Angeles Philharmonic concerts every season.

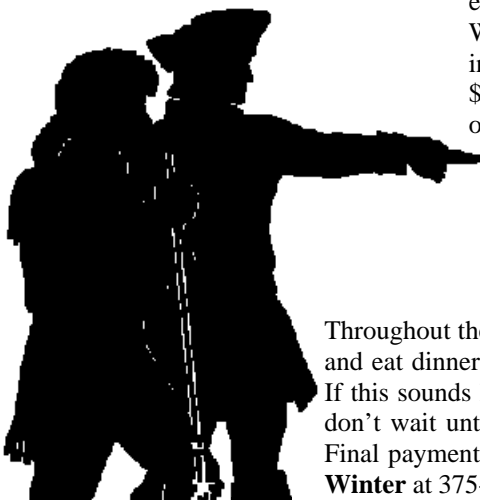
In her spare time she entertains her three sons (one from Palm Springs and two from Seattle), three grandsons, and three granddaughters. This April she will become a great grandmother.

Her granddaughter, Rebecca, shares Christine's musical talents. Not only will she receive her doctor of musical arts degree from UCLA this June, but she has already sung with the Los Angeles Opera.

Currently Christine serves as member-at-large on the *Omniole* Board of Directors.

### The Lewis and Clark Trail

By John Taber



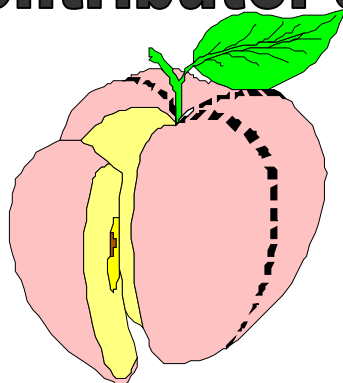
We are rapidly filling our tour of the western part of the Lewis and Clark Trail. Participants will experience the trail during the Corp of Discovery's bi-centennial and see much of the great Northwest that the explorers saw. This will be enhanced through explanations and interpretations at visitor's centers, parks and roadside descriptions. We will depart June 8th and return June 19, 2003. Each person's shared-room cost including transportation, lodging, entrance fees and most meals is \$1895 with only \$540 extra for individual accommodations. All *Omniole* members, their spouses and others desiring an educationally-oriented tour are welcome. Tour highlights include:

- ◆ Great Falls, Montana where portage around a series of falls was necessary.
- ◆ Gates of the Mountains including a boat trip through the steep-walled canyon.
- ◆ The Lolo Trail over the Bitterroot Mountains where they nearly perished.
- ◆ The Clearwater, Snake and Columbia Rivers, their route to the Pacific.
- ◆ Fort Clatsop, their winter camp during 1805-06.

Throughout the trip we will stay in accommodations such as the Tolavana Inn on the Oregon beach and eat dinner in unique surroundings such as McMenamin's Edgefield Inn in Troutdale, Oregon. If this sounds like the kind of learning adventure you would like to share with other *Omniole* members, don't wait until all the spots are filled. A fully refundable \$150 deposit will reserve your place. Final payment is due May 1. Pick up a brochure from the bulletin board in Room 7 or call **Jean Winter** at 375-8566 or **John Taber** at 831-4768 for details and/or an application.

# Contributor's

FORNER



## A Tribute to Rose

By Lindie Banks

As member-at-large, secretary, and academic vice president, she never missed a board meeting. As far as I know she attended every Forum. Her poor health was never an excuse to not fulfill an obligation she'd agreed to.

No matter how long-winded or opinionated some of us became, Rose never lost her patience or sense of humor. Her smile lit up the room.

Last summer I had the privilege of sharing a class on The Harlem Renaissance with Rose. She never missed a class. Sometimes her husband, Adrian, came with her. Her insightful comments on the writers, musicians and artists of that era made the class come alive. She read not only the known authors of that movement such as Langston Hughes and Zora Neal Hurston, but those whose fame was more obscure.

We talked about having lunch together. I wanted to know her as a friend as well as a fellow *Omnilorian*. I will always think of her as a mentor. When I become board meetings, I think of Rose. When I think I'm too tired to take on a request, I can still see her looking radiant in the gypsy garb she wore to the last annual meeting on Halloween.



Last summer, in our Harlem Renaissance class, I couldn't recall the author of the poem *We Wear the Mask*. Rose contacted me the following day by e-mail. She included the entire poem by Paul Laurence Dunbar. As much as I admire the poem, I never felt Rose wore a mask. Her gracious smile was as genuine as her determination to do her best whatever the task in front of her.

Thanks, Rose, for your great example.

I missed the memorial service for Rose Shields at the Carson Community Center because of a virus. But that didn't keep me from thinking about her as I lay in bed on January 18th.

I wished I'd known her better. She, more than anyone in *Omnilore*, epitomized gracious grit. Despite emphysema, which made her dependent on a portable oxygen tank, and cancer, she never missed showing up - not only at every S/DG, but also at our brainstorming sessions designed to make us think up new ideas for courses. She was always at the door to hand out tickets to those of us who showed up and more tickets when we'd written up a course proposal.

By Myron Pullen  
OMNIOLORE PLANS A WEBSITE

We are beginning to create a website which will be responsive to our needs as members of our Learning-In-Retirement community. The new website will be announced as soon as it is available. In the meantime, feel free to submit any suggestions you may have regarding what you would like to see on the website to **Myron Pullen**. Myron's mailing address is in the *Omnilore* 2002-2003 Roster, and his e-mail address is [mdpullen@earthlink.net](mailto:mdpullen@earthlink.net).

If you have any photos or graphics which you feel might be appropriate for inclusion on the website, you can submit them too. If you do, try to submit a copy that does not need to be returned. We would like to see as many of our members participate in the creation and maintenance of the website as possible, so your ideas will be greatly appreciated. We can't guarantee that your idea will be used, but we do guarantee that it will be given careful consideration.

Meanwhile, *Omnilore* has reserved the domain names [omnilore.org](http://omnilore.org) and [www.omnilore.org](http://www.omnilore.org) for our future website. These names are currently active. However, for the time being you will only get the *Omnilore* web page at CSUDH.

**Names In the News**  
Mike Scordan has been named Mail Distributor for *Omnilore*. He succeeds **Blanche Herring** who recently filled in as interim mail distributor. Thanks to both of them.

**CSUDH ID CARDS**  
CSUDH student identification cards are issued to *Omnilore* members only when they first join, but can be renewed after that by asking for an update sticker for the card at the Extension Building. These cards allow *Omnilorians* to use the large library at CSUDH.

**Reserving Equipment**  
By Carol Johnson  
It is important to reserve unique equipment when both classrooms will be in use. To reserve the video scan converter (VSC), the desktop presenter (DP), or the VCR, a coordinator or class member should contact **Carol Johnson** (372-8535) and give her the 3-letter class code, and preferably write the 3-letter code on the room usage calendar in Room 7, in the appropriate right-hand column. This will assure that the equipment you need is available to you.

**Friendorphobia**  
Fear of forgetting a password!

**New Special Interest Group To Form**  
A new special interest group for persons interested in fiction is currently being organized by **Jim O'Neill**. Persons interested in participating are asked to contact him by e-mail at [kqam-elot@msn.com](mailto:kqam-elot@msn.com) or to call him at 539-0415.







**Information Bytes  
from the  
Computer & Technology  
Special Interest Group**

*By George Clark*

We all get e-mails that report strange things like:

- ◆ Your computer may be infected with a dangerous new virus, which cannot be detected, by either Norton or McAfee, and here is how you can find out if your computer has it . . . If you find that you have it, send a warning message to everyone in your address book.
- ◆ There is a small child who is suffering with cancer whose family cannot afford an expensive procedure, but the American Red Cross will donate 5¢ for each e-mail which is forwarded over the Internet. . . Forward this e-mail message to as many of your friends as you can.
- ◆ The cause of swelling in a girl's jaw is determined to be cockroach eggs that entered her salivary glands when she ate a Taco Bell taco . . . Warn all your friends not to eat at Taco Bell.

The things we all want to know in a situation where we read a message like one of these is can this possibly be true and should we pass the information on to our friends.

Well, you don't have to be in doubt as to the truth of the claim or whether you should warn all your friends. Just check the veracity of the claim at the following website:

<http://www.snopes.com/>

You will be surprised how many of these strange reports are totally false and have been floating around the Internet for years. So before you spend time worrying about whether it is true or whether you should tell all your friends, so they can worry about it too, check the statement out.

There are several other similar sites, which may also be consulted. Among these are:

- <http://straightdope.com/>
- <http://www.vmyths.com/>
- <http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/hoax.html>
- <http://vil.mcafee.com/hoax.asp>
- <http://hoaxbusters.ciac.org/>
- <http://www.nonprofit.net/hoax/default.htm>
- <http://hoaxinfo.com/>
- <http://www.3oddballz.com/hoaxes/>

And, there are more.

**Would You Say . . .** there are more deductions in today's paychecks than in a Sherlock Holmes mystery? . . . that angioplasty is inflation you can live with? . . . Disney popularity is due to word-of-mouth advertising? . . . that people who jump off the bridges of Paris are in Seine?

**Deceased**

Two long-term members passed away during the Christmas season. On December 26 **Ross Harrington**, 85, died. He retired as Redondo Beach school superintendent in 1977. **Rose Shields**, 77, died January 10th. During her professional life she was department director for the Los Angeles County Probation Department. Last year she served as vice-president, academics for **Omniole**; and this year she was co-chairman of the curriculum committee.

**Membership Information Meeting Set**

An information meeting for persons interested in learning more about **Omniole** will be held Friday, March 28th at 10:30 a.m. in Room 7 at the Franklin Center. (This is one of two such meetings planned for this year.) If you know any interested friends, please invite them to attend.

Fable is more historical than fact, because fact tells us about one man and fable tells us about a million men.

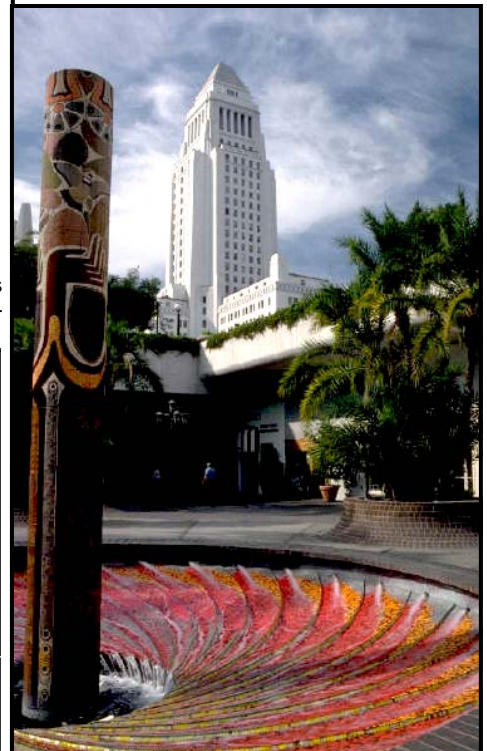
**Eighth Annual Downtown Walk  
Set for April 11th**

*By John Taber*

On Friday, April 11th all **Omniole**ians are invited to join members of **Omniole's** hiking group on our annual tour of downtown Los Angeles. (*Please Note: This hike is on the second Friday of the month instead of the third.*)

In our previous downtown tours we have covered many artistic, architectural and historical places in the vicinity of downtown. This year we will explore some new ground and repeat some of the sights of previous years. We welcome prior attendees plus any newcomers who want to see recent downtown changes and don't mind walking a few miles at a leisurely pace to do so.

Like all our walks, this walk is open to all. However, only those on the hiking group's mailing list and others who call will receive details of where and when to meet. We encourage non-members to become regular members and join us on a regular basis as we explore the Palos Verdes hills eleven times during the year and downtown once. For the yearly fee of \$5 you will receive a notice of each upcoming monthly hike. For more information or to get on the mailing list call **Nancy Sinclair** at 513-0287 or **John Taber** at 831-4768.



<b>March</b>	3	Forum Committee Meeting - 11 a.m. - Room 7
	5	WES - <i>The West Class</i> - 10-12 a.m. - CSUDH
	6	Brown-Bag Science (BBS) Series - 12-1:00 p.m. - Room 7 <i>Evolutionary Psychology</i> - Patricia Edie
	11	Membership Committee Meeting - 12:15 p.m. - Room 7
	13	Board of Directors Meeting - 12:00 Noon to 2 - Room 7
	14	Computers & Technology SIG - 1:30 p.m. - Room 8
	19	WES - <i>The West Class</i> - 10-12 a.m. - CSUDH
	21	Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
	28	Membership Information Meeting - 10:30 p.m. - Room 7
	28	Computers & Technology SIG - 1:30 p.m. - Room 8
<b>April</b>	2	WES - <i>The West Class</i> - 10-12 a.m. - CSUDH
	3	Brown-Bag Science (BBS) Series - 12-1:00 p.m. - Room 7 <i>Modern Linguistic Theory</i> - Terry Savage
	8	Membership Committee Meeting - 12:15 p.m. - Room 7
	10	Board of Directors Meeting - 12:00 Noon to 2 - Room 7
	11	Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
	11	Computers & Technology SIG - 1:30 p.m. - Room 8
	15	Input Deadline for May-June Newsletter
	16	WES - <i>The West Class</i> - 10-12 a.m. - CSUDH
	<b>20</b>	<b>Easter</b>
25	Computers & Technology SIG - 1:30 p.m. - Room 8	

OMNIOLORE  
CALENDAR

2003

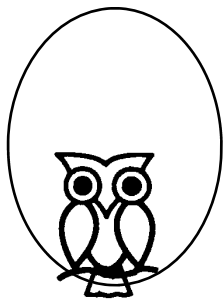
**Happy!**  
**St. Patrick's Day!**



**March 17th**

**IMPORTANT**

Calendar changes and additions may be made in one of two ways:  
Either phone Carol Johnson (310) 372-8535, or mark the corkboard calendar in  
Room 7 and notify Carol Johnson via e-mail at [cnordj@sprynet.com](mailto:cnordj@sprynet.com).



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