



OMNILORE NEWS

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OMNILORE NEWS

A publication of The OMNILORE Society, 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. Contact any of the staff members with your contributions.

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Elderhostel Institute Sets International Study Travel Trips for 1995

Four international study travel trips have tentatively been scheduled by Elderhostel Institute for 1995. Each program will have two components: a preparatory course which may be pursued as an independent study program; and a residential Elderhostel program.

Participants will have their choice of travel study in Mexico, Costa Rica, Italy or Turkey. Applicants will be considered for "unreserved spaces" which will be awarded by lottery next fall.

- The Mexican study program will take place in Oaxaca January 8-21. Cost per person will be \$1,189, excluding airfare.
- The 25 day program in Turkey will take place in either May or June, date to be announced; and will begin and end in Istanbul. Included in the itinerary will be study trips to Pergamon, Selcuk, Kutahya, Konya, Avanos, Ankara, and

Bursa. Costs, including airfare, can be expected to include a modest increase over comparable programs held this spring, which ranged from \$3,479 to \$3,986, depending on departure city.

- A 13 day program will be offered in Rome in June, date to be announced. Costs, including airfare from New York, are expected to include a modest increase over comparable programs this spring which were offered at \$2,553.
- The final program will be offered for 14 days in June in Costa Rica, dates to be announced. Costs can be expected to include a modest increase over this year's cost of \$1,823, including airfare from Miami.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Elderhostel Institute Network, 15 Garrison Avenue, Durham, N.H. 03824 or by phoning (603) 862-3390

Five Courses To be Offered During Summer

Five study/discussion groups will be offered this summer. Course offerings will include:

The Computer From Fear to Friend - An opportunity to understand how a computer works. The proposed text is "How Computers Really Work" by Miling S. Pandit. The OmniLore computer will be available for demonstrations.

A New Look at the Civil War - A wealth of new information is now available to give us a keener sense of what it was like to live during this traumatic period in American history. The class will discuss not only the leaders and major battles but also the stories of the common soldier and their families.

English Literature of the 19th Century - Part II - The field consists of the Romantic and lyric poets, novelists

and essayists, Victorian novelists, poets, and the matchless prose writers and playwrights all too numerous to mention.

London, The Life of a City - Much of the social and cultural history of London has been documented not by historians, but by novelists, poets and playwrights. We will probe the works of Dickens, Trollope and others for insights into the social, economic and political aspects of Life in London.

Potpourri - Back by popular demand. Presenter, pick your topic! No continuity necessary.

The summer sessions will begin the week of June 13. members will be notified by their coordinators of the dates and times their classes will meet.

EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU!

AN EDITORIAL BY ETHEL ALLEN, PAST PRESIDENT AND UNIVERSITY LIAISON



In January the Omnilore News carried an editorial by the retiring Curriculum Chairman. In it he asked who determines our study topics. The answer, it turned out is: Each of you! Proof of the success of that approach is the appealing, wide-ranging list of topics offered so far. And let us remind you, the suggestions were not just one sentence, shop-in-the-dark, momentary curiosities. Obviously, you each gave careful thought to designing a description sufficiently appealing to entice enough members to form a study group.

Now we must ask: How do we progress from that short, albeit stimulating, description to a satisfying endeavor for some dozen people for a full semester? Who decides on the study content? Who provides a bibliography and decides on a core reading? Who determines the approach- the schedule - and who is the teacher? The answer to each of these questions is the same: **Each and everyone of you!** But, we hear you asking, how then, with our stimulating, enthusiastic, and strong-minded membership can there be any orderly pursuit of the topic? How can the diverse enthusiasm and energies be focused as well as nurtured? Omnilore's solution: the Coordinator. Any one member of the group can serve in that

capacity. Indeed the Coordinator's task is neither to establish the content nor to teach it, but rather coordinate the interests and the contributions of all members in the group.

To begin with, the group must consider the specific interests of each member. That, after all, is why he or she has joined the group in the first place. Everyone's input is necessary here. Arranging the aggregate interests into some logical sequence usually suggests the outline of study for the semester. The Coordinator need not be especially proficient in the subject. Among the participants, though some may be exploring the subject for the first time, most will have some degree of acquaintance with the topic, and the pooled resources are always valuable in guiding the group's planning.

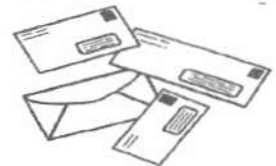
Omnilore is not an organization of old folks; pawing through keepsake, stale warmed-over ideas. Its members are an intellectually curious, skeptical and open-minded lot who happen to be old enough to bring a rich background of life experiences and interests to bear on the quest for new knowledge and deeper insights. The salient word here is new! But how can content not yet known be taken into the planning process? How can we be sure that in our mutual ignorance we do not overlook some of the essentials? The obvious answer is to consult an expert. That "expert" may be a body of literature in the discipline located for us by our local reference librarian, or perhaps a fellow member of Omnilore, or very possibly a faculty member at CSUDH. From the experts the

group can become aware of the available resources for, and the scope of, their quest. But in the final planning only the interests of each and all can determine the aspects of the topic the group will explore.

All of this requires planning well in advance of the first meeting. (Indeed the Curriculum Committee begins the process a full semester ahead.) Moreover, it requires the active participation and cooperation of every member. Passive members are a dead weight for the group to carry. Only by participating in the preliminary planning and making one's interests known can a genuine sense of involvement and commitment be achieved. Surely then, each member's natural enthusiasm for the project can assure that the teaching (each member's presentation) will be worthwhile, and that the participation by all will lead to lively and stimulating discussion. Who does the planning? Who does the teaching? Who enjoys the fascinating presentations? Who Learns? Grows? Has fun? Keeps young? **Each and Every one of you!**

Omnilore News.

Comments
and input can
be sent to



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Omniole Profiles

Mike Scordan - Curriculum Chairman

When this reporter called Mike Scordan, he was in the midst of picking horses for a race. No ordinary race; and no ordinary horses. Mike was in the midst of examining the records of the greatest horses of all time to compete in a simulated race on his computer. When he's not racing horses, Mike is likely to be found setting up simulated boxing matches or matching the all-time great teams in baseball, football or basketball.

Not a surprising hobby for a man who is both a life member of Mensa for the past 27 years and a member of ISPE (International Society for Philosophical Enquiry) for the past four years.

Retired five years ago after a 23-year career as a claims adjuster and suit negotiator with State Farm Insurance, Mike can tell you *exactly* when he was born. For anyone into astrology, he entered this world on Monday, July 9, 1934 at 11:30 p.m. at Providence Hospital in Seattle, Washington.

He left Seattle in 1952 when he joined the Marine Corps as the Korean War was winding down, and spent most of his three years in service repairing transmitters at Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station in North Carolina.

Following his military discharge, Mike attended Loyola University in Chicago for a semester prior to

entering the seminary in August 1956 to study for the Jesuit priesthood. By the time he graduated from Gonzaga University in Spokane six years later he had raked up bachelors' degrees with honors in five majors - English, Latin, Greek, History, and Philosophy. In 1963 he received his masters degree in philosophy and credentials to teach in both Washington and Oregon.

After leaving the Jesuits, Mike spent three quarters teaching at the University of Washington in Seattle before he decided to get out of teaching and into claims adjusting. He began his career with an independent claims adjusting firm in Riverside, California before switching to State Farm in 1966. While pursuing his lifelong career in the insurance industry, Mike picked up a law degree from La Salle University at Chicago after four years of correspondence study.

Apart from matching his wits against the computer in simulated sporting championships, Mike has devoted his retirement to two primary interests; study and travel. He enjoys studying philosophy, theology, and mysticism (both Eastern and Western). Shortly after he retired, he joined Great Books and the embryo group which was later to evolve into the OmniLore Society.

Much of his travels are based on first-hand visits to historical

places; and he frequently makes these trips by rail to enable him to see the country close-up. His travels have taken him to Canada, Boston, Chicago, Washington, D.C., New Orleans, Houston and San Antonio on this continent and to Russia, China, Hong Kong, Greece and Italy. His most meaningful travel experiences were spending time in the room in which Lincoln died at the Peterson House opposite the Ford Theatre and seeing DAVID in Florence, Italy.

Not only is Mike's intellectual life lofty, but his social life as well. Measuring 6'4", Mike has been affiliated with the Tall Clubs International since 1964 mingling with over 5'10" women and 6'2" men for the past 30 years. Currently he is a member of the San Fernando Tip Toppers.

Living in the same apartment on the Esplanade for the past 20 years, Mike enjoys running along the beach for a five mile stretch five times a week. To round out his health regime, he works out at the gym three times a week and rides a computerized lifecycle six mornings a week.

Planning a trip to friends and historic sites in five cities around the country this month, Mike says this will be his last self-directed tour. "In July," he says, "I will finally be 60. From then on it will be Elderhostel study trips for me."

FREIGHT TRAIN SHAKESPEARE FEATURES OFFBEAT BARD



Interested in an offbeat approach to performances of Shakespeare? If so, you might want to look into Freight Train Shakespeare. The novel group will begin its inaugural season next month in Venice. Performances will take place at the Gacon Center Theater in the Helm's Bakery Building, 8735 Washington Boulevard.

Two plays will be presented on an alternating basis during the May 25 - July 3 season: Henry V and Pericles. Performances will take place Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 7 p.m.

Tickets are available at \$20 per pair during the first four performances, a discount of 20% off the regular price. Interested persons may receive additional information or order tickets by calling (310) 822-3424.

CALENDAR

May 2-6	Summer Coordinators Meetings with Curriculum Committee
May 30	Memorial Day
June 2	Board of Directors Meeting
June 9	Deadline for Fall Study/Discussion Topic Suggestions
June 10	Spring Session Ends
June 15	Summer Study/Discussion Groups Begin
June 15	Deadline for July Newsletter
July 4	Independence Day
July 11-22	Distribution of Fall Study/Discussion Ballots and Registration Forms
July 28	Deadline for Fall Study/Discussion Registration



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