



OMNIOLORE NEWS

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OMNIOLORE

California State University
Dominguez Hills

OMNIOLORE NEWS

A publication of OMNIOLORE, a Learning in Retirement Organization affiliated with The College of Extended & International 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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Omnilore's April Forum

by Marvel Burke

At the well-attended April 30th Forum lunch, we listened to Dr. Hamoud Salhi, an Algerian-born professor of Middle Eastern politics at Cal State University, Dominguez Hills.

Dr. Salhi related that he had grown up in Algeria, in a remote area where there were no schools. At age nine he moved to live with his uncle and only then began his education. As he progressed, he did undergraduate work at the University of Algiers. After receiving a scholarship to study in the U.S. he earned Masters and PhD degrees at USC.

He grew up as a Muslim. He believes in Islam, but he feels that religion is a personal matter and should not be mixed up with political problems. "We see religion as something you get when you are born," he said.

His wife is a convert to Islam, he told us, and she influenced him to practice abstinence from alcohol which is a tenet of his faith, but he formerly was not strict about it. From his wife he learned how to deal with people of other faiths. He now serves on the board of an inter-religious group at a Jewish Center. He enjoys these talks about issues common to all, however he finds that whenever a Muslim shows up the talk turns to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. "The Jews," he said, "believe they have a right to return and claim rights, but the Palestinians have rights also."

"You must look at the Muslim belief in perspective," he continued. "Islam is a peaceful religion and one of the most misunderstood religions in the world." He went on to tell us that most American Muslims embrace American ideas, they believe in hard work and are far more successful here than in Europe. American Muslim educational attainment and average household income exceed that of average American households. They condemn violence and extremism and believe in working within the system, taking advantage of civil liberties here.

He fears, he said, the too-common view of American Muslims as terrorist-prone. He explained a common misunderstanding of the Muslim "jihad." A struggle with an invader would be a "small jihad." A large difficult jihad is a search within yourself in preparation for the Judgment Day. "Your body already belongs to God," he said, "so suicide is against the tenets of Islam."



Omnilore President, Rick Spillane (left), Dr. Hamoud Salhi, Forum speaker, and former President, Burt Cutler

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Rick Spillane

What a wonderful spring. I hope you have taken time to visit our deserts for the beautiful flower displays. Areas like Anza Borrego remind us what a little rain can do to make the landscapes beautiful. This is certainly a low stress way of observing the wonderful diversity of California.

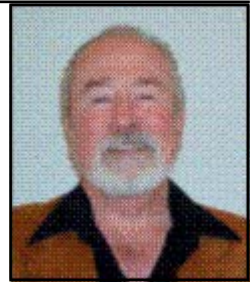
A new study concludes that despite the sharp rise in our standard of living in recent decades, Americans today are little or no happier than earlier generations. Unsurprisingly, our TV watching has increased greatly. The study notes that the time given to activities we enjoy such as visiting friends, reading, exercising, visiting the outdoors, listening to music, etc. has consistently gone down. Omniflores already know that turning off the TV and participating in learning and interaction with friends is both intellectually

challenging and fun. Combining Study/Discussion Groups (S/DGs) with visiting several of the scenic California parks is a good recipe for increasing your level of happiness. Watching Huell Howser's "California's Golden Parks" on TV (good as it is) can't compete with the real thing.

Another source for stimulating adventures is Omniflore's travel program which supplements its other learning activities. One or more times per year a trip for Omniflore members is combined with a Study/Discussion Group to explore historic, artistic, architectural, cultural, scientific or other aspects of a specific region. See the Omniflore web page for more details.

We are a volunteer organization whose membership is growing and we need

more volunteers to help support our activities. Periodically we send out a form to our members asking them to sign up as volunteers. If you are able, please consider signing up. You will certainly raise my level of happiness and perhaps your own.



A question that continues to come from members is "can they drop out a trimester or two and then come back at a prorated annual membership dues rate?" The simple answer is no. Prorated dues are only available for new members during the first year they join. All members and former members rejoining Omniflore pay the one-year rate. Please keep in mind that our dues are far below those of other organizations offering similar programs and we want to keep that good value coming your way.



**"Lifelong Learning at CSUDH"
Open House**

by Jim Bouchard

Director, Lifelong Learning Institute
College of Extended & International Education
CSUDH



We finished the last presentation of our "Global Warming" series just last week, and the feedback I got was that it was an extremely informative series. We are currently planning the fall series which is tentatively titled "Culminating Achievements of the High Baroque." This series will consist mainly of the professors of music from CSUDH, and we may include some experts from outside the university as well.

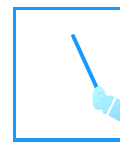
Several **Omniflores** attended a wonderful luncheon sponsored by the College of Natural & Behavioral Sciences. The speaker was Gilbert F. Ivey, Assistant General Manager and Chief Administrative Officer, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Mr. Ivey's talk was titled "Water: The Oil of the 21st Century - - Global to Local Impacts."

As a result of our "Lifelong Learning at CSUDH" open house, which was held in February, we attracted a group of lifelong learners for our "Middle East" DVD discussion group. There will be two more DVD discussion groups this spring and summer. "The Golden Thread: Masterpieces and Their Times" begins on May 8, and will be held for 8 consecutive Thursday from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. "American Film, Television, and Culture of the 1950s" will begin on July 12 and will be held for 8 consecutive Thursday from 1:30 to 3:30 pm.

Omniflores Carol Johnson will teach a class at the Extended Education computer lab at CSUDH starting May 6. This a beginning course which will cover the basics of Windows, keyboard skills, folders, word processing, e-mail, and the Internet. The name of the course is "How To Turn This Computer On: A Beginning Computer Course," and from what the students have told me, it was the title that made them decide to register.

Enjoy this great spring weather!

Presentations 101: The Workshop



Thursday, May 15th

12 Noon

Room 7

by Merle Culbert

Are you a new member to **Omniflore** and a little uncertain about what to do about your first presentation? Perhaps you have been a member of **Omniflore** for a while and want to polish your presentation skills. In either case, we have some help for you. On Thursday, May 15 at 12:00 noon you are invited to join "Presentations 101: The Workshop." It's all about making our Presentations better and enjoying livelier discussions.

If you can't attend the workshop and want some help pulling your presentation together check the list of Presentation Mentors on the bulletin boards. You will find the names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of **Omniflore** members who have volunteered to work with other members on making Presentations. Just give one of them a call or fire off an e-mail to make arrangements for advice and to make a new friend.

OMNIOLORE PROFILE – CAROL KERSTER

by Norman Lobsenz

Cosmologists, who seek to decipher the secrets of the universe, have long been trying to find the "missing" energy that exists between the galaxies. They are looking in the wrong place. They should turn their instruments toward the Redondo Beach home of Carol Kerster, whose energy seemingly is inexhaustible.

Educator, family counselor, world traveler, avid reader, opera buff, actress, chorister, community volunteer -- Carol has been and done all of these, and her enthusiasm for enjoying everything she does has not flagged. She believes her most important role models were her parents: "My mother and father were both highly organized, efficient, and involved in many activities."

Born in Chicago in 1931, Carol attended Roosevelt College there, earned her B.S. in Education at the Un. of Illinois in Champaign, and taught in that city's schools for two years. She moved to Los Angeles in 1955 primarily, she says, "because my husband was an electrical engineer, and that's where the jobs were for him." Not one to be idle, however, Carol taught in the Culver City school system until she had her second child and decided to be a full-time mom.

When her son Matthew and daughter Jennifer reached school-age, Carol found a new outlet for her energy, acting in such South Bay community theaters as the Chapel Theater and Kentwood Playhouse. During the 1960s and 1970s you could catch her in a wide variety of roles in such plays as *Shot in the Dark*, *What the Butler Saw*, Arthur Miller's *The Price*, Neil Simon's *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, and *Night of the Iguana*, in which Carol portrayed the role Ava Gardner played in the movie.

When acting gigs did not use enough of Carol's time, she began training for a professional career as a family counselor. "I felt it was an extension of my teaching background," Carol says, "and I felt comfortable doing it." Soon after she got her degree as a Marital, Family and Child Counselor from Azusa-Pacific College and received her license, Carol became clinical director at the South Bay Center for Counseling, and eventually opened a full-time private practice she maintained for the next 30 years. With energy still to spare, during that time she also taught assertiveness training at Torrance Adult School, Santa Monica Junior College, and many corporate seminars; joined

Temple Menorah and sang in its choir for 12 years; and has been active in *Omniole* for 13 years, working on the Forum Committee and Newsletter staff.

But Carol's life is hardly "all work and no play." After she and her husband had separated, Carol found a friend and intimate companion in Harry Cohn, and for the past 17 years they have traveled the world together, including an unforgettable round-the-world journey on the supersonic Concorde. Of the seven continents she has visited, her favorite is Antarctica. Yet Carol says her most exciting travel moment was on a sunlit midnight in a Zodiac in the Arctic Ocean, watching walrus at play. When not traveling, Carol participates in two book clubs, subscribes to the opera and several theaters, and manages to see "almost every movie, especially art films."

Carol's pet peeve? -- People who don't listen.

Her life motto? -- "It's what opera singer Beverly Sills taught me-- if I can't be happy, I want at least to be cheerful."

Any new goals? -- "I want to do more creative writing."

And *Omniole's* question of the day? -- Will Carol Kerster ever run out of energy?

February Computer Talks Rocked!

by Merle Culbert

At the February Computer Talks **Patricia Edie** wowed seventeen *Omnioleans* with her presentation on how she plans and researches her presentations. In her brief introduction she explained her purpose and welcomed questions, but asked that they be kept succinct due to time limitations. She would be using Internet Explorer and Google.

Before she goes on the net she sets up a desktop folder as a place to save her information. Many of us do that but Patricia takes it a step further and within her folder there is a sub-set of three folders. One for Images. One for Data. One for websites. Inside the Data folder is a blank Word document to hold her Notes. She consults a general source such as Wikipedia and makes a simple outline. Then she brainstorms a list of NOUNS: key words, names, subjects related to her topic.

Three tips on Boolean searching followed and then she addressed saving images from the web. There were tips on finding the right image in Google Images and choosing the right size before saving. Who knew it was so simple! A magic RIGHT CLICK OF THE MOUSE and the image can be sent directly to the "Images" folder where it will wait patiently to be nestled into your PowerPoint presentation.

When you are copying data from a website to your Notes Document, select the content you want to copy and right click on it. Select "copy." Open your "Notes" document; place the cursor and "paste." Don't forget to give credit to the website where you got the information. Either copy the URL information and paste it in the Notes doc or drag it onto the document. Tip from the audience: if you paste the URL hit "Return" or "Enter" and leave a blank line between the URL and the next text, the URL becomes a hyperlink.

Google Book Search and News search were mentioned as valuable resources as was using "cached" files from Google searches.

The last few minutes were spent discussing evaluating your data. How do you know it is valid? Check the authorship, the sponsorship and the affiliations. Is there a particular bias or point of view? Can you verify the accuracy and reliability? Of course, this, in itself, can lead to a whole new search.

In my estimation it was the quintessential presentation. Not only because it was informative, well organized and delivered so well, but because Patricia realized that SHE was the Presentation, not PowerPoint.

DEAN'S CORNER



Notes from CSUDH

by Margaret Gordon

Dean, Lifelong Learning Institute
College of Extended & International Education

By now everyone has heard about California's \$16 billion shortfall and its potential impact on education. The State budget proposed by Gov. Schwarzenegger in January would reduce funding for the California State University System by \$386 million, which will substantially impact CSUDH and its 22 sister campuses and will in all likelihood result in higher student fees.

The California State University, comprised of 23 campuses and serving approximately 450,000 students, is the largest system of higher education in the United States. One in five CSU students is a first generation college student; four in five are working (many full time) while they attend college; 54% of CSU students are students of color; and the average age of undergraduates is 24 years. The CSU plays a major role in providing accessible and affordable education to the citizens of California.

One immediate result of the announced budget reduction will be to reduce access to higher education for Californians. All campuses have already closed admission for freshmen for Fall 2008 and it is estimated that approximately 10,000 qualified students will not be able to enroll in the CSU for 2008-09.

Reducing access to the CSU has potentially serious effects on the State's and the region's economies. Approximately 80% of teaching credentials, 65% of business degrees, 64% of nursing degrees and 51% of engineering degrees in California are grant-ed by the CSU. The CSU, its students and graduates generated \$3.11 billion in tax revenue in 2003. The CSU is considered to be the "economic engine" of California and has played a significant role in making California one of the largest economies in the world.

Access to affordable higher education is a significant component in any solution for a troubled economy. Faculty, staff and students have joined together in a campaign whose motto is "The CSU is the Solution!"

C'est si Bon; C'est si Beaux!

by Lindie Banks

All spring semester a group of Omnilorians prepared for a trip to southern France called "Caesars, Caves, Celts, Castles and Cathedrals" coordinated by **Carol and Tony Lopilato**. On April 5th, twenty-seven members of the class flew to Marseilles and stayed the first night in Aix en Provence. Our guide, Jean Bardot and his assistant, Patrick, led us on a walking tour through the city of 400 fountains beginning with a tour of the most ancient church built on Roman foundations. Later we walked across the Roman aqueduct Pont Neuf.

Our sojourn in southern France was a delight to our eyes as well as our palates. Jean Bardot lead us with eloquent expertise through some of the oldest cathedrals in France, many of them built over Roman foundations. We were privileged to see an ancient carved door in Aix which is rarely shown to the public. In Avignon, we stayed in a hotel next to the Palais de Papes which was inhabited by seven popes during the schism with Rome. It is a great stone palace, and to my mind rather depressing and cold. We took daytrips to both Orange and Avignon to see the ancient Roman Theaters still used today for bullfights and operas.

In Narbonne and Nimes we toured cathedrals that date back to the 12th century. There one can see the progression from Romanesque to Gothic and eventually characteristics of the pre-Renaissance with its rococo details.

A special treat included a stop outside Arles at St. Remy where Vincent Van Gogh was treated during his struggle with mental illness. A reproduction of his famous painting, "The Bridge," and one of a grove of olive trees shows where he stood while he painted.

In Carcassone we were thrilled to see the walled city from our hotel dining room. As we enjoyed our French cuisine, we saw the lights gradually come on until by dark, the castle and walls looked like a picture from a beautifully illustrated children's book. The next morning we visited behind the walls before it became crowded with tourists and souvenir shops had opened.

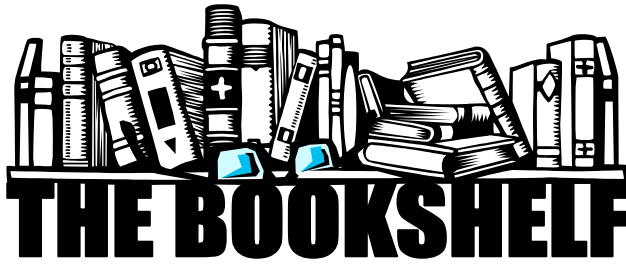
We continued on to the lovely brick city of Albi where we enjoyed the Museum dedicated to the paintings by Toulouse Lautrec, and the Cathedral, Saint Cecilia's, with it's ornate interior. On a rainy Monday morning, we left for the breathtaking views of the Dordogne region with its mile after mile of green rolling hills and little villages of stone houses often topped by castles built on the rocks overlooking them. Our stops included several of these medieval villages. Soon our meals invariably included goose or duck pates as well as red and white wines from the region.

Our visits to the caves at Peche Merle, famous for its spotted horses and the drawing of a woolly mammoth and Lascaux II were for many of us the highlight of the trip. No one is sure why our ancestors of the Cro Magnon era painted horses, bulls, and woolly mammoths 17,000 years ago in dark caves lit with crude oil lamps, but the paintings speak for themselves in proportion and artistry.

The E-ride for most of us was through the deepest crevasse in France in the Perigord region. Descending two stories down into the earth, we rode boats through the narrow river running through the area.

On the way to Bordeaux, we stopped at a cooperative wine processing plant where grape growers bring their harvest to be turned into fine wines. Just outside of Bordeaux, we visited a small family winery where the enthusiastic owner and his wife held a wine tasting before a buffet dinner in their charming home situated on a hill with a magnificent view of Bordeaux itself. Alas, it was raining, but we enjoyed their gracious hospitality and talking to their llama and alpaca who keep the lawns mowed for them.

It was a wonderfully varied experience—so much *(Continued on page 5.)*



by Mary Oran

It's almost time for those two magical words – "summer reading." There is something special about a sunny day, a little breeze, a comfortable seat, and a good book. Perhaps the suggestions this month will complete the picture.

I Wish I'd Been There: Twenty Historians Bring to Life Dramatic Events That Changed America, edited by **Byron Hollinshead**, is an anthology of "participatory fantasies." Through the imagined experiences of the historians, we spend a day in 11th century Cahokia, join Meriwether Lewis on the Continental Divide, experience the death of Lincoln and M. L. King's "I Have a Dream" speech, and much more. In some of the essays, one will see that politics hasn't changed much. The approaches are varied and the arrangement of the events is chronological. This is one of those books that one can read in little bits, and not necessarily in order.

CBS roving correspondent **Bill Geist** offers a collection of quirky and unusual places around America in ***Way Off the***

Road. Meet Kathy DeBruin, known as the "Annie Leibovitz of cow portraiture". Visit the Land of Lost Luggage in Scottsboro, Alabama and Boston's Museum of Dirt. Almost thirty tales that will amaze and amuse

may even inspire one's next road trip. This is a delightful little picture of off-beat America.

For those wishing for a more serious presentation in American history, consider **Doris Kearns Goodwin's *A Team of Rivals***. This presentation offers marvelous insight into the life of Lincoln and his political genius through his relationship with three men he selects for his cabinet (all of them opposed his candidacy). These men were shocked by his victory, but came to respect and admire Lincoln as his presidency evolved.

As for the fiction selections this month, the classic to read is ***The Country of the Pointed Firs and Other Stories*** by **Sarah Orne Jewett**. Published in 1896, the novel and selected stories center on a fictional town in rural Maine. The narrator is a visitor one summer and writes portraits of the town's residents, with bits and pieces of their lives. It has been described as "...a New England idyll rooted in friendship". This is perfect summer reading, with the imagery of the sea and the tang of salt air weaving its spell.

On Chesil Beach by **Ian McEwan** (author of *Atonement*, *Enduring Love*) is a novella set in 1962. It is a beautifully told but sad story about inexperienced newlyweds and what happens on their wedding night. The narratives and memories of one fateful night seem like a classical drama as they unfold. This is a short but memorable reading experience.

If a totally frivolous novel is what one is looking for, ***The Oscar Season*** by **Mary MacNamara** (*Los Angeles Times* entertainment reporter) is just the ticket! It is a mystery with a number of twists. The setting is the Pinnacle Hotel, the place where anyone who is anyone connected with the awards meets and stays. One gets an inside view of what goes on at a hotel during the busy season. The references to local landmarks and famous people give the novel extra "spice." Both mystery and a little romance make this a great escapist read.

As usual, we would really welcome suggestions from our 250+ members. Please take a few minutes to email us the name of a book you have enjoyed. Share the richness of reading.

(Our thanks to **Al Blinder** and **Helen Leven** for contributing to our list. Please send your titles, with author name and a very brief description, to msoran@sbcglobal.net. Please put "Omniole Books" as the subject. We look forward to hearing from you.)

New Voice Amplifier

by Carol Johnson, Equipment & Facilities Manager

Some of us have soft voices and others of us do not hear so well, so **Omniole** has a new voice amplifier. The JustAMP Digital Amplifier is kept in its white box in the equipment closet in Room 7. It has two choices of microphone: one that fits onto the head of the speaker; the other is hand-held. Either of these microphones is plugged into the left side of the amplifier. Volume is adjusted by the numeric dials on the amplifier.



Important: After use, these dials should be set to minimum (0 for one, 1 for the other), to keep the battery charged.

To use the voice amplifier in Room 8, please check with any group meeting at the same time in Room 7, to avoid a conflict.

(Continued from page 4.) crammed into two short weeks, but worth every step of the way. I didn't mention the museums of archaeology, but they too added to our understanding of early man from prehistoric times to the Roman settlements and the medieval ages. We saw stone figures defaced by the Huegonauts. We were fascinated by the growing sophistication in tool making and the evolution from the simple tools of the cave dwellers to the sophistication of the mighty cathedrals.

Thanks to **Carol and Tony Lopilato** and the preplanning of **John and Lynn Taber**, we enjoyed a rich experience. Merci beaucoup pour tout!

Future Computer Talks

Computer Talks was debated during its last session - April 24th - and it was decided to be very much needed by **Omnioleans!** It's being reorganized, bringing on some new faces and will be up and running by its next scheduled times - **May 22nd & June 26th**. Because topics had not been decided by publication time, look for an e-mail before each session.



Practice safe eating -
always use condiments.



OMNIOLORE
CALENDAR
2008

- May**
- 1 Summer Trimester Begins
 - 5 **Cinco de Mayo**
 - 8 Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon - 2 p.m. - Room 7
 - 11 **Mother's Day**
 - 13 Membership Committee - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 8
 - 15 Presentation Workshop - 12 Noon - 1 p.m - Room 7
See Article, Page 2
 - 16 Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
 - 21 Website Working Group - 12 Noon - 1:15 p.m. - Room 8
 - 22 Computer Talks - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 7
Topic Notification by E-Mail
 - 26 **Memorial Day Observed**



- June**
- 10 Membership Committee - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 8
 - 12 Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon - 2 p.m. - Room 7
 - 15 **Father's Day**
 - 15 Input Deadline for July-August 08 Newsletter
 - 20 Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
 - 21 **First Day of Summer**
 - 26 Computer Talks - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 7
Topic Notification by E-Mail



IMPORTANT:

Calendar changes and additions are scheduled with Pat Stevens - (310) 548-3253 - p.t.stevens@cox.net

Omniole Welcomes New Members

by Howard Korman

Looking forward to the summer trimester, the Membership Committee held two "Introducing Omniole" meetings this spring. Twenty eight people attended; of those, 20 enrolled before the start of the new trimester.

Many *Omniole* members helped by encouraging friends to get involved; their assistance is much appreciated. The Membership Committee would also like to thank the Daily Breeze, the Easy Reader, and the Beach Reporter for their publicity that inspired several people to attend. We also post flyers in libraries for the meetings. If anyone has any further suggestions for publicizing future meetings, feel free to contact me.

Let's welcome all our new members to the classes they have enthusiastically selected. The following is a list of new *Omniole* members who have joined since the spring 2008 trimester.

WELCOME!

<p>Joyce Barham Redondo Beach</p> <p>Charmion Burns Manhattan Beach</p> <p>Barbara Case Redondo Beach</p> <p>Allan Conrad Palos Verdes Estates</p> <p>Katie Destabelle San Pedro</p> <p>Barry Dunbridge Torrance</p>	<p>James & Ann Gere Manhattan Beach</p> <p>Jim Halloran Redondo Beach</p> <p>Rodger Hunt Redondo Beach</p> <p>KC Johnson Lomita</p> <p>Don Longmire Palos Verdes Estates</p>	<p>Jim & Monika Riggs Hermosa Beach</p> <p>Maria Ruiz Redondo Beach</p> <p>Frank Schmid Redondo Beach</p> <p>Jim Scott Rancho Palos Verdes</p> <p>Susan Swihart Palos Verdes Estates</p> <p>Tom & Donna Thorpe Manhattan Beach</p>
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A Canadian September
September 6 - 19

A fascinating two week trip to Quebec City and the Maritime Provinces of Canada is being planned by the *Omniole* travel committee. An e-mail with complete details of the travel itinerary and cost for the trip has already been sent to all members. For those interested without e-mail, please contact **Marilyn Landau** at 514-3535. There will be a maximum number for this trip, so if we get more than we can handle, we will form a waiting list.

March 27th Computer Talks

Myron Pullen gave a presentation covering the new S/DG Folders, which are available on the *Omniole* Web Site, during the March Computer Talks. There was a lively exchange of information on how to access the folders, what kind of documents are being placed into the folders, and how coordinators can go about using their folders. Several documents which were distributed at the meeting are available on the *Omniole* Web Site at <http://www.omniole.org/members/Curriculum/SDGs/ComputerTalks/>. This is within the portion of the web site which is protected by password, so if you have any problems accessing it or would like to get some additional information, get in touch with Myron at 310-546-2155 or mdpullen@earthlink.net.