



OMNIOLORE NEWS

Volume 7 Issue 3

May 1998

OMNIOLORE NEWS

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

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OmnioLore News is published six times annually. We welcome short feature articles and news stories. Contact any of the staff members with your contributions.

Staff Members	Ginger Engstrom
	Blanche Fleming
	Peggy Houghton
	Ronnie Saunders

AFTERNOON COLLOQUIUM SET FOR JUNE 3



In a departure from past practice OmnioLore will hold its next colloquium in the afternoon. The Wednesday, June 3 event is set for 1 to 3 p.m. at the Peninsula Center Library, 650 Deep Valley Drive, Palos Verdes.

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Susan Fellows, 20 year lecturer of Sociology and Behavioral Science at California State Universities

Dominguez Hills and Long Beach, Long Beach City College, and August Vollmer University.

She will discuss "Cross-Cultural Values Into the New Millenium."

Dr. Fellows has served as consultant to the Los Angeles Sheriffs Department on minority and differently-abled people, was program evaluation coordinator of the California Academy of Math and Science, and has served as preceptor to the Minority Access to Research Careers program at CSU Dominguez Hills.

Co-author of an article titled "In the Trenches, A Response to Discrimination and Affirmative Action in the 90's," Dr. Fellows is the recipient of the WHO (We Honor Ours) award, 1996, from the California Faculty Association, a representative body for over 29,000 faculty members in the Cal State University system.

PERSONS PLANNING TO ATTEND ARE ASKED TO CALL PATRICIA MORRIS AT 541-8378. ADMISSION IS FREE. DEADLINE ON RESERVATIONS IS MAY 27.

Suggested readings include:

- ⇒ Ethnic Families in America: Patterns and Variations. Mindel, C. H., Habenstein, R.W., Wright, R., Editors. Fourth Edition 1998, Prentice-Hall.
- ⇒ Strangers to These Shores: Race and Ethnic Relations in the United States. Parrillo, V.N. Fifth Edition. 1997. Allyn & Bacon.
- ⇒ Ethnic Identity: Creation, Conflict and Accommodation. Romanucci-Ross, Lola & Devos George, Editors. Third Edition. 1995. AltaMira/Sage Publications.
- ⇒ Minority Families in the United States: A Multicultural Perspective. Taylor, R., Editor. Second Edition. 1998. Prentice-Hall.
- ⇒ Race: How Blacks and Whites Think & Feel About the American Obsession. Terkel, Studs. 1992. The New Press: NY.

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CURRICULUM COMMITTEE SEEKS COURSE PROPOSALS



Despite the success of the recent Hot Topics brainstorming session, the Curriculum Committee seeks new S/D topics on an ongoing basis. If you have an idea for a course but are hesitant to spell out a course description, a member of the curriculum committee will be glad to work with you to develop your idea within the OmnioLore guidelines.

To offer variety, OmnioLore depends on YOUR imagination and creativity. Just drop your ideas in the curriculum committee box in the Room 7 closet anytime, or call Jim O'Neill, Curriculum Chairman at (310) 539-0415.

The Presidents Message

OMNIOLORE POLICIES

QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS & BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

In September, '97 I sent a letter to the membership advising of my intent to query members' opinions during 1998 on some important matters regarding our modus operandi.

In March, after several months of heroic efforts by an ad-hoc committee led by Ginger Engstrom, with major contributions by Mike Scordan and John Taber, we finally winnowed it down to just four questions. Within three weeks you returned over 100 responses, many of them with additional useful comments. Thank you all for the enthusiastic and rapid response. You obviously care. Survey questions and results were as follows:

Q1 Should Omnilore allow classes using a knowledgeable instructor instead of peer presentation?	
No, this is too much of a deviation from Omnilore's original intent.	28%
Yes, but only as a rare exception; once or twice a year.	29%
Yes, but only as an exception; up to once or twice a semester.	29%
Yes, and there should be no limits.	13%
Q2 Is it O.K. for Omnilore to have some classes with no presentations, e.g., book-discussion groups?	
No, this is not the charter of Omnilore. There are other local book-discussion groups.	29%
Yes, but only as a rare exception: once or twice a year.	19%
Yes, but only as an exception; perhaps up to once or twice a semester.	11%
Yes, whenever a S/D Group decides this is the way they want to go.	41%
Q3 Should less challenging learning activities that are typically available in local adult high schools be allowed?	
No, it's important for Omnilore to maintain intellectually challenging S/D Groups.	68%
Yes, if enough members want them.	32%
Q4 All members are expected to give a presentation each semester. Can there be exceptions to this rule for specific individuals?	
No, it's important for Omnilore to maintain its established modus operandi.	19%
Yes, for temporary physical or other hardships.	55%
Yes, for tentative-feeling new members.	12%
Yes, for any reason -- it's not a big deal.	13%

In general, both the comments and the voting indicate that members are pleased with Omnilore's general direction but feel that we could and should experiment with alternate formats.

Keeping in mind that this was not a plebiscite but rather a solicitation of members' views for the guidance of the board, at its April meeting the Board of Directors took the following actions regarding the four questions:

- 1) We will issue a policy guideline to the Curriculum Committee stating that it is acceptable to experiment with instructor-led courses, perhaps a maximum of a single topic description per semester. (We don't anticipate many such topic suggestions).
- 2) We will issue a policy guideline to the Curriculum Committee to accept up to one or two topic descriptions per semester with a discussion-only (no presentation) format. Guidelines will be given to the Curriculum Chairman, the Chief Coordinator, the Training Director and the Vice President of Academics stating that:
 - * All S/DGs will include presentations unless the topic suggestion clearly states "There will be discussion only; no presentations."
 - * Upcoming new coordinator training meetings and materials will clearly state this as well. In all other respects, coordinators and their groups retain wide flexibility to change core books, subtopics, etc.
- 3) The board did not feel it necessary to issue additional guidelines regarding "less challenging" S/DG's or courses. It has been and remains the responsibility of the Curriculum Committee to determine whether suggested topics are at an appropriate level.
- 4) The new coordinators' manual that is in preparation will note that coordinators have wide latitude to relax members' responsibility during temporary physical hardships, but should expect all new members to take their presentation turn. The coordinator can offer substantial aid (a "buddy" etc.) to any new members that seem reticent.

Again, the Board of Directors thanks all of you for your expressions of interest and guidance. Omnilore will continue to evolve and add flavor while maintaining its well-established direction.

Burt Cutler

YOUR COMMENTS

"Times change, people change. So it's a super idea to ask these questions from time to time. For me the way we now run our Omnilore classes is just perfect. I love it. Presentations broaden the scope of the classes"

"I think Omnilore should be somewhat flexible & reflect the wishes of the majority even if a change from the original intent."

"Core book idea should be re-evaluated. Some of them have been a waste."

"Omnilore can be quite intimidating for some folks who are not skilled in presentations but overall an enjoyable intellectual exchange."

"I like Omnilore just the way it is. There are other places to take courses with instructors and there are book discussion groups and "how to" courses. You can do both if you like but I think it would be a mistake to change Omnilore."

"Omnilore has been a rewarding experience -- let's not dumb it down."

"Presentation training should be a requirement for participation"

"If I had wanted to attend "relaxed formal" or "how to" classes, I would not have joined Omnilore. Keep it as it is!"

"Let's retain Omnilore's unique quality of presenting its members with truly challenging learning methods. Each presentation I've prepared has rewarded me with a real sense that I've learned something worthwhile. Let the senior centers and adult education provide the less challenging classes."

"I do feel we learn more with our own research/presentation but isn't our organization based on members desires and needs?"

"Again its not always black and white. I am happy with our current policy but don't object to trying new options."

"I believe the basic S/D format should remain our guiding principle, but we should be experienced enough, intelligent enough and not so hide-bound, that we cannot also allow for some diversity as long as we remain a peer-educating group."

As I mentioned, you took the time to submit many useful and interesting comments. Space precludes printing them all, but here is a sampling. Again thanks for your interest and time.

Burt

Omniole Profiles

Will Graham

Will Graham is one of those handful of people who met in Burt Cutler's living room nine years ago to plant the seed that was to blossom full-blown six years later into the OMNIOLORE we know today. Born in a small town outside of Twin Falls, Idaho in 1916, Will came to California with his parents at the age of two.

In 1929, as the nation entered the depression, 13 year-old Will fell in love with a new student at his elementary school in Highland Park and embarked on a lifelong love affair with the willowy Vi, who has been his wife for the past 57 years.

After graduating from Benjamin Franklin High School, Will took off for Oregon, where he studied architecture at the university in Eugene. Eager to enter the working world, Will left Oregon, returned to California, and took a position at Lockheed where he did technical writing and technical illustration days while studying nights at Cal Tech.

In 1950 he left Lockheed to accept a position at Northrop writing patent specifications for their patent department. Working closely with patent attorneys, Will decided he would like to pursue a career as a patent attorney himself. He enrolled at Southwestern Law Center at night to study law; but while he was still enrolled, he took the patent bar

exam. When he passed it, he decided that since he never planned to practice law, he would leave law school.

He intended to remain in the patent department at Northrop prosecuting applications in the patent department; but when his supervisor died in 1957, the general counsel appointed him patent director, and he remained in that position until his retirement in 1981.

Since his retirement, Will has traveled the world extensively for 17 years. When Admiral Halsey's granddaughter launched the people-to-people program to spread good will abroad, he and Vi were invited to participate in the tennis tour of China, where they were guests of the Chinese Sports Federation and played tennis with Chinese people all across the country for a month in 1984. The Grahams took other tennis tours through the International Tennis Association to Australia, New Zealand, the Fiji Islands, and Africa.

Will and Vi traveled with Elderhostel groups in Guatemala, Turkey, the British Isles, Scandinavia, and Israel. They have participated in over 60 Elderhostels within the United States. They have traveled on their own in India, and stayed with friends in Japan. The only continent they have not visited

is Antarctica; and Will plans to come close this Christmas when he and Vi depart by ship from Santiago, Chile, travel around the horn, and visit the Falkland Islands and the tip of South America before flying home from Buenas Aires.

Avid theatergoers Will and Vi subscribe to the Palos Verdes Players, the Norris Theater, the South Coast Repertory Theatre, and the South Bay Civic Light Opera.

At one time Will did stained glass windows. He has always enjoyed painting. But these days he keeps busy with two book clubs, one to two duplicate bridge games a week, and attending meetings of the Peninsula seniors. In addition he has continued his life-long interest in fitness, working out regularly. Since his retirement, he has also done patent drafting for a Torrance patent attorney.

His daughter and son-in-law, who live in Lubbock, Texas, are computer aficionados. When they gave him a computer last September, they told him that they expected him to know how to use it the next time they see him. -- Result? Will has enrolled at Hamilton Adult School in a beginner's computer class.

REMINDER If you are the last group to leave either of the classrooms, please remember to:

- ⇒ Put away coffee pot and fixings
- ⇒ Shut off all lights
- ⇒ Close all windows
- ⇒ Lock Doors
- ⇒ Turn off heat

Don't assume another group is coming in!

We Want to Know . . . if you know of any member in our midst who is having difficulty of any kind. Omniole members want to respond with offers of help, transportation, a phone call, flowers or whatever. Please notify Michael Grinde, Membership Chairman at (310) 372-6122.

Omniole News
Comments and input can be sent to



OMNIOLORE CSUDH
P.O. Box 7000-236
Redondo Beach, Ca. 90277
Phone (310) 540-6011

Editors' Note:

To anyone preparing information for the newsletter, if your article is composed on an IBM compatible computer it would be greatly appreciated if you would submit it on a 3 1/2 disk with a notation as to software used or even easier e-mail it to me at Engstro@lbn.net. If you have any questions please call Ginger Enstrom (310) 832-7333



Hooray For The Good Guys!

The Board of Directors want to thank the coordinator crews that "facilitated" the just-finished spring sessions. We hope you found that your extra efforts were rewarded with pride of accomplishment. Thank you, again, from all of Omnilore!!

- * Drama of the American Jewish Experience
- * The Ancient World
- * Understanding the Stock Market
- * The Education of Henry Adams
- * California Impressionists
- * A Study of Baroque Music
- * Down to Earth Astronomy
- * The Mediterranean Sea
- * Opposing the System
- * Generals of World War II
- * Study & discussion of Creative Writing
- * French Philosophical Thought
- * Architecture: its Meaning & Evolution
- * Current Issues of American Foreign Policy

Ronnie Saunders
Neale Lehman
Terry Savage
Peggy Houghton
Leonard Williams
Ellen Bradford
Emil Raulin
Mary E. Pinoniemi
Alfred Bernstein
Elyse Boozer
Merle Culbert
Mike Scordan
John Taber
Jim O'Neill

Etta H. Tourkin
Ed Rea

Cecilia M. Carroll
Sunny Golombek
Sunny Golombek
Patricia A. Theberge
Peggy Houghton
Mary O'Neill
Myrna Browning
Jack Laughlin
Regina W. Collins
Walter Skiba

OMNIOLORE NEEDS YOU!

HELP WANTED: SOCIAL ACTIVITIES CHAIRPERSON

by Burt Cutler

OMNIOLORE has established a well-functioning organization to provide intellectual stimulation in study/discussion group formats. However it has been less successful in providing **social opportunities for its members**. We need to find out if this is due to non-interest on the part of members or non-availability of a social leader. Let's assume we find a capable leader. What could we expect her or him to do? Some possible examples that come to mind could include:

- 1 Brown-bag lunches.** Persons attending morning classes and those scheduled for afternoon classes the same day could mingle during the hour-and-a-half to two hour lunch break. These can be just no-agenda social lunches, or can focus on brief, 15 minute presentations from members regarding hobbies, past business experiences, travel memories, etc.
- 2 A Movie Discussion Group.** Each month a small group would view an unusual, highly recommended movie and then meet in one of the members homes to discuss the movie.
- 3 Plays, Concerts, Opera, etc.** There are a number of plays produced at smaller South Bay theaters. For example, the Palos Verdes Players during the '97/'98 season

included Love Letters, A Thousand Clowns, Death Trap, The Boys Next Door, Pure as the Driven Snow, etc. Many other plays are available at very nominal rates. Would a small group of five to ten members enjoy attending together and afterward discussing the play in a restaurant or home? Or how about Harbor College Chamber Music Concerts (free)? Your choice of locations at Harbor College Friday evenings or at Montemalaga Unitarian Church Sunday afternoons -- typically six concerts a year.

4 Bridge, poker or chess groups

5 Golf or tennis groups

6 Local trips (such as South Bay Arboretum, Newport Beach Boat show, Laguna Pageant of the Masters, etc.)

7 Mini-travel events (such as boat excursion to Mexico)

8 Ethnic food restaurant group
This list is not meant to be definitive or exhaustive, but rather indicative of some of the possibilities out there. It is logical that the chairperson would enlist the support of one or several other members as this program gets underway and evokes interest on the part of the membership.

And we don't need to justify any of these with ten or more attendees---three or more might be just wonderful for those who participate.

What is needed is a gregarious leader who would be willing to initiate and help organize some of these functions: it means some effort, perhaps an hour or two a week. To assure maximum support for this endeavor, this position will be on a responsibility level comparable to the Colloquium Chair. It will report directly to and receive considerable support from the President. I look forward to hearing from volunteers at 541-8973.

Burt

BRAINSTORM SESSION CONCLUDES HOT TOPICS SERIES

The final session of Hot Topics concluded with a brainstorming session on proposed new S/D topics for future study. Twenty participants came up with 44 proposed study topics and course descriptions according to Mary O'Neill, chairman. The proposals will be turned over to the curriculum committee. Chairman O'Neill expressed her thanks to everyone who submitted proposals.

AROUND KNOB HILL SCHOOL

OOPS! Recently an Omnilorian slipped and went to the Knob Hill office for keys. This is a NO-NO. Please remember to bring your own key or borrow one from another Omnilorian if necessary. But please do not bother the staff.

OMNIOLORE CALENDAR 1998

May	4	Summer S/D Groups Begin
	11	Deadline for Submitting Topic Suggestions for Fall Session
	14	Board Meeting (Approval of '98-'99 Calendar)
	25	Distribution of Proposed S/D Topics & Fall Registrion Forms
	25	Memorial Day Celebrated
June	3	Spring Colloquium 1-3 p.m. Peninsula Center Library
	11	Board of Directors' Meeting, Nominating Committee Appointed
	10	Deadline for Return of Fall S/D Group Registration Forms
	5	Deadline for July Newsletter
	15	Distribution of Final Roster Addenda
	17	Fall S/D Groups and Schedules Mailed
	22	Annual Enrollment Forms Distributed
	27	Deadline for Summer Membership Fee, New Members Only
July	9	Board of Directors' Meeting



IMPORTANT

Please Note: All changes and additions to the Omnilore Calendar must be cleared with the Vice President, Administration Hank Steddum (310) 375-3981 in order to avoid conflicts in scheduling or use of rooms.