



OLLI OMNIOLORE NEWS



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OLLI@CSUDH OMNIOLORE

OMNIOLORE NEWS is a publication of OMNIOLORE, a Learning in Retirement Organization, a program of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the 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 A STANDOUT

by Lori Geittmann

“What’s What on Water” turned out to be one of Omnilore’s best-ever Forum topics. Our audience was amazed at how fascinating this presentation was. Typical was this comment from Marilou Lieman “I am still raving about yesterday’s Forum. It is amazing how easily he conveyed so much pertinent information.”

Water expert Ron Wildermuth is the governmental affairs director for the West Basin Municipal Water District, the public agency that is the water wholesaler for 17 local cities. Our speaker warned us that the semi-arid desert area of Southern California is in an extended drought situation which is likely to become significantly worse as our population expands. Right now our reservoirs are only 50 percent full.

We get 75 percent of our water from Northern California levees and dams (from the state water project). The rest of our water comes from the Colorado River. One earthquake knocking down the levees in northern California could put us in a disastrous situation for two to three years.

How can we cope? Wildermuth gave us some alternatives.

Re-use sewer water. He noted that the water district, at its plant in El Segundo, has treated and purified sewer water until it is as good if not better than water sold in plastic bottles. He invited the group to come taste it!

Another potential water source is from desalinization of sea water. A demonstration plant will soon be built in Redondo Beach, across the street from the power plant.

When asked about the cost of desalinizing sea water, he said it was about \$900 an acre-foot compared with water from our other sources at \$700 an acre-foot. (An acre-foot of water is a foot of water covering one acre.) There is no question, he said, that the price of water will continue to go up.

Wildermuth urged us to focus on water conservation including low-flow shower heads and toilets, drought resistant plants – and even reducing our everyday water usage such as not running water while brushing teeth or shaving.

When some Omniloreans complained about the use of water by agriculture, he said that significant progress in minimizing water usage is being made by California farmers.

For those concerned about the environment, he said that the desalinization plant would use methods of water intake that would protect sea life. He also said that water projects are taking protection of fish into consideration. Sometimes water was not pumped from northern California because fish had to be protected.

Mr. Wildermuth offered to lead a tour for Omnilore members at the El Segundo water purifying facility. Based upon his excellent presentation this should not be missed. We’re planning to soon arrange this – those interested please notify **Johan Smith** at johansmith@ca.rr.com

DON'T MISS – IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ President’s Message Page 2
- ◆ Profile - Kathleen Fitzgerald Page 3
- ◆ Showcasing Creative Work Page 4
- ◆ Dean’s Corner Page 5
- ◆ Equipment Box Page 6
- ◆ The Bookshel Page 7



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Ruth Hart

Have you ever wondered how Omnimore S/DGs are scheduled, why one gets scheduled on 1st & 3rd Monday afternoons while another is scheduled for 2nd & 4th Thursday mornings? How likely is it that you will get shut out of your first choice S/DG or that both S/DGs you've requested are scheduled at the same time? If these questions pose no interest to you, you can skip the rest of this column. However, if you're interested in learning more, read on.

The answers to all of these questions and more lie in the Omnimore scheduling program, an ingenious piece of software programmed by long time Omnimorean **John Taber** in the classic 1970's programming language Pascal. The program interacts with the curriculum schedulers (currently my husband Hal and me) to generate an optimal schedule (defined later in this column). It provides far more flexibility than most college course scheduling programs, which assign course times and then have students sign up. If you're not available when the class is scheduled, you can't attend the class. It's as simple as that. The Omnimore scheduling program takes a different approach. It schedules classes based on student availability. That's why you are asked for times when you are unable to attend a class.

There are a number of steps involved in generating a schedule:

Loading the data. Omnimore's administrative assistant, Johan Smith, takes all the information that members provide and enters it into an Excel file. The program reads the file and generates a massive display of data – including (but not limited to) the number of first-choice and backup requests for each class, how many requesters for each class are unavailable in each of the twenty available timeslots, which people receive fewer classes than they've requested, and which people are denied their first

choices.

Choosing a set of courses. If fewer than eight people request an S/DG, it will be dropped. However, whenever an S/DG is dropped, the program automatically schedules the people who have requested that S/DG into their first choice backup. As a result, if an S/DG has 6 or 7 first-choice votes, we won't drop it right away, because, after backups are added, it might end up with more than enough members.

Splitting classes. In general, Omnimore S/DGs are limited to 18 students. If more than 18 people request an S/DG, it is split into two sessions. (Occasionally, a coordinator requests that their S/DG not be split; in this case, the program allows us to set a different maximum.) The program automatically schedules members into the two different sessions in order to minimize the chance of conflicts. It also allows us to create "clusters" of members who ask to be scheduled into the same session. For example, if a husband and wife request the same S/DG, and that S/DG is split, we will cluster them together.

Setting Meeting Times. Once the list of S/DGs has been determined, meeting times need to be chosen. For each S/DG, we look for a time when all requesters of the class can attend (i.e., there are 0 conflicts at that time). Usually, we can find such a timeslot for about 60% of the S/DGs. If there's no time when everyone can attend, we look for a time when only 1 person can't attend, etc. The computer screens allow easy review of the numbers while we experiment with varying schedules of classes (sometimes called "What-If Games"). For any particular candidate schedule, the computer program instantly moves conflicted people to their backup choices and recomputes all the metrics. We try to create an optimal schedule, one that minimizes (1) the number of people getting fewer classes

than requested, (2) instances of anyone having two requested classes scheduled at the same time, and (3) the number of people losing first-choice classes.



Often different schedules optimize different factors, and the program assists human evaluation of these trade-offs.

In order to maximize the chances of getting the S/DGs in which you're interested, here are some recommendations:

Specify backups. If the S/DGs you've requested are dropped and you don't specify enough backups, you won't get as many classes as you've requested. And perhaps the class that you would have specified as a backup was dropped because you figured you could just sign up later.

Minimize the times when you aren't available. The more times you're available, the greater the likelihood is that you'll get your first-choice S/DG. If you do have a lot of conflicts, it's especially important to specify as many backups as possible.

Let Johan know if you want to take an S/DG with a friend. She'll pass the information along to us in case the S/DG is split. (Short Stories classes almost always are split, for example.)

For those who want to learn even more about the scheduling process, the May Computer Talk will provide more details (see article on page 5 of this newsletter). The talk will explain the basic process, show and explain the computer program screens, and step through snapshots of screens and key numbers used for determination of this summer's actual class schedule. We'll show you how to run the program and, if you want, let you try your hand in scheduling. On the other hand, if you now know far more than you ever wanted to know about the process, just sit back and know that we try to accommodate as many constraints as possible.

The Next **INTRODUCING OMNIOLORE MEETINGS:** **Thurs. July 30th - Room 7**
Help Spread the Word! **Tues. August 11th - Room 7**



OMNIOLORE PROFILE – KATHLEEN FITZGERALD

by Janet Brown

What if Kathleen Fitzgerald had chosen differently following her graduation from Berkeley, with a degree in Public Health? After all, her plan had been to work with WHO (the World Health Organization), because she was curious about other cultures, and she loved to travel.

What if she had not married and, following their decisions to become teachers, moved to Southern California with her husband to pursue teaching credentials at Long Beach State? After receiving her credential this curious, warm, soft-spoken, accomplished woman taught many fourth, fifth and sixth graders.

Kathleen is a San Francisco native, growing up in the Richmond District near Golden Gate Park. Her daughter and granddaughter live in Novato in Marin County. She and her husband divorced after fifteen years.

After twenty years of teaching, Kathleen decided that it was time for a change in her life. She found Omnilore and in 1992 she became one of its earliest members. She studies languages – French and Italian – and travels extensively. She has been almost everywhere in the world on trips lasting about three weeks, although she did spend an entire year in Barcelona, Spain. Her favorite places are the mid-East and Africa, enjoying the culture and art that each has to offer. Her next trip will be to Uganda and Namibia.

When she returns home from her travels Kathleen resumes her

busy life. She has taken piano lessons and greatly enjoys music. Her interest in the theatre led her to become part of the AAUW’s Reader’s Theatre Group, which has performed original scripts. She has played the role of President Hayes’ wife Lucy, and also the role of Marie Curie. Over the last few years this volunteer program has helped raise money for 12 scholarships for girls to attend Tech Trek, where the girls are immersed for a week in science and math at a university campus. And for the last four years she has helped in the productions of the Act II Group which raises money to support the Norris Theater.

Kathleen also volunteers with the Assistance League, working in the “School Bell” at their San Pedro branch, where schools bring children for school uniform fittings and the organization picks up the tab.

But she has yet another passion. This one is gardening. She loves flowers and she grows many of her own herbs which she uses for cooking Italian and Spanish dishes...she makes a great paella.

Kathleen is passionate when she speaks of the things that she loves. But her eyes really sparkle when she speaks of her daughter and her granddaughter, whom she talks with every week-end and sees four or five times a year. Kathleen is leading the life that she enjoys. Her daughter is doing well. All are thriving.



OLLI Spring Series

by *Jim Bouchard*

Senior Program Development Specialist
Coordinator, Lifelong Learning, OLLI@CSUDH



teaching an OLLI course can be a rewarding experience not only for the students, but for the instructors

This semester OLLI at CSUDH had a truly robust selection of course offerings. Our instructors, who are volunteers, included emeritus CSUDH faculty, current CSUDH faculty, Omniloreans, and community experts. You can view our spring newsletter, which has lots of photographs, by going to <http://www.csudh.edu/extendeded/lifelong/>, and then clicking on “Newsletter.”

The spring Osher Lecture Series was “Contemporary Scientific Issues,” and it included some fascinating presentations. As a result of “Bird Conservation in a Changing World” with Dr. John Thomlinson, we have arranged a lecture at the Carson/Gardena YMCA followed by a tour of the Gardena Willows, an enclosed 40-acre wildlife preserve which is across the street from the Y (it’s on the other side of the Kripsy Kreme on Artesia and Vermont ... who knew?).

This event will take place on Monday, June 1st, at 9am at the Carson-Gardena YMCA, and we will email more details prior to the event. We will see first-hand what the South Bay looked like before development. Learn more about the Gardena Willows at <http://www.gardenawillows.org/>.

We had several Omnilore instructors teach this spring. **Patricia Edie** taught *This Is Your Life: Memoir Writing*, **Jay Edie** taught *Expensive Oil and Global Warming*, and **Carol Johnson** taught *Beginning Computer Training*. OLLI members who attended were very enthusiastic about each of the classes. In fact, at our April Open House, a student in Patricia Edie’s class stood up and said “We learned so much. We didn’t want the class to end.”

I would like to invite any Omnilorean who is interested in sharing their expertise and knowledge to propose a course to teach in Fall 2009. From everything I’ve seen,

as well. An OLLI course proposal form and instructions can be found on the OLLI website at <http://www.csudh.edu/extendeded/lifelong/>.

Website Survey Results
Thanks for the 32 members who responded to the Omnilore Website Survey. The Website Working Group appreciates your time invested and your valuable comments and suggestions. We will continue to work the site to make sure it meets the needs of the membership. Congratulations to **Arlene Block** who was the winner of the drawing for the free ticket to our April Forum Luncheon.

Showcasing Our Members' Best Scholarly and Creative Work

by the Website Working Group

Have you noticed that our updated Omnilore Website has unveiled a brand new feature page called the *Members' Showcase*? On this members only (i.e., password protected) Webpage, we plan to showcase each trimester a new batch of the most outstanding creative and/or scholarly works developed by our members through their participation in last trimester's Study/Discussion Groups.

On this page, the Website Working Group (WWG) intends to display outstanding:

- ▶ poems, short stories, plays, essays, and other creative works
- ▶ scholarly and creative digital presentations (e.g., PowerPoint slide shows, MS Word slide shows, etc.)
- ▶ other outstanding digital material originating from an Omnilore S/DG (e.g., a video or photographic slide show of an outstanding creative or scholarly class activity like a formal play reading).

By now you must be wondering how in the world the WWG is going to determine "the best and most outstanding work." Well, we won't, but you will. Starting at the end of the current Spring trimester, there will be a new question on the *S/DG Feedback Survey* form.

"Is there any one outstanding creative or scholarly work developed by a class member of this S/DG that you would like to see showcased on our Omnilore Website during the following trimester? If so, please identify it by the name of the author."

Those works getting the most votes in any S/DG will be showcased on the new Web page. Of course, the WWG will need to contact the authors, get their permission, and obtain digital copies of these works before they can be uploaded and linked to the *Members' Showcase* Website page. Over time, we hope the new page will become a valuable and favorite site that our members will visit and view every time we put up a new gallery of winners.

If you have any comments about this new page or ideas about how the WWG can improve the operation of this showcase page, please contact any member of the WWG (**Barbara Case, George Clark, Jay Edie, Patricia Edie, Blanche Herring, Mary Oran, Myron Pullen**).

Death Valley - Alive with Wonder

by Jean de Angelis

After weeks of studying the scams, scandals, the earnest dreamers, hype, delusions, schemes, the "colorful" characters and crooks in the attempts and failures to make fortunes in Death Valley, the time came for a group from the Death Valley S/DG to see it for ourselves. We left Los Angeles on Monday morning, April 13th and returned on Thursday, the 17th.

Expecting to find, according to Zane Grey, a, "ghastly gray through the leaden haze, an abyss of ashes, iron walled and sun blasted, hateful and horrible as the portal of hell," we were ready to be, "wanderers of wastelands – men (and women) who go forth to seek and to find and to face their souls." We all brought our lightest clothes and were delighted to find that the temperature never got above 72 degrees. There was a big windstorm and in some moments great gusts of dust. It became quite cold at night and one morning, at Scotty's Castle – an altitude of 3000 ft, it was 48 degrees at 9 a.m. We were glad we had brought jackets.

We were amazed at the geology of the place. While hiking in the canyons, there was some new wonder around each bend, be it highly polished marble, multicolored pebble mosaics in Mosaic Canyon, the natural bridge trail which ended with a strange shiny green outcrop, the pure gold colored hills in Golden Canyon, and everywhere the results from wind and water erosion. We loved the interminable salt flats shimmering in the sun, the snow-covered mountains in the distance, the wildflowers, sculptured sand dunes, the colors in the Artists Palette.

Having read the book, we were aware of who the local historic names were and their deeds. We knew about the mines and the ghost towns, which increased our enjoyment and made them come to life. We all came to the conclusion that Death Valley was so vast, so silent, so grand, so fascinating and so spectacular that we were truly privileged to have been part of it for these few weeks of our spring trimester.

PRESENTATIONS 101: THE WORKSHOP

Thursday 12 Noon 
May 21st Room 7

Are you a new member of Omnilore and a little uncertain about what to do about your first presentation? Perhaps you have been a member of Omnilore for awhile and want to polish your presentation skills. In either case, we have some help for you. On **Thursday, May 21, 2009 from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m.**, you are invited to join *Presentations 101: The Workshop*. Need help selecting a topic? Don't know what audio/visual equipment is available or how to use it? Not sure how to schedule your class presentation? The Workshop will answer these questions and any others you may have relating to one of the most enjoyable elements of the Omnilore experience. 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 names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of Omnilore 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. **Presentations 101: The Workshop** - Thursday May 21st 12:00 noon - Room 7 - Franklin Center, Redondo Beach.



Notes from CSUDH

by Margaret Gordon

Dean, Lifelong Learning Institute
College of Extended & International Education

OLLI at CSUDH has made significant progress, particularly since January, toward building a comprehensive lifelong learning program and meeting Osher Foundation endowment criteria. Earlier this month the College submitted an interim report to the Osher Foundation. This provided us with an opportunity to reflect on our activities since September 2008. We'd like to share highlights of the report with you since your cooperation and contributions play an important role in developing OLLI.

OLLI at CSUDH launched an intensive marketing campaign in Fall 2008 consisting of major marketing pieces, on-going announcements to constituent lists, updating of OLLI/Omnilore websites, Open House events and forging new community partnerships. These efforts were successful in establishing the identity of the CSUDH Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and recruiting new members. An intensive effort was made to reach residents 50+ years of age in Carson and surrounding communities. Full-color post cards advertising several OLLI Open House events proved to be a great way to recruit. (Future OLLI Open Houses are scheduled for May 5 and June 23. See OLLI at CSUDH Website <http://www.csudh.edu/extended/lifelong/> or call 310-243-3208.) As a result of promotional activities, OLLI at CSUDH membership has grown notably since September, with current memberships at 470.

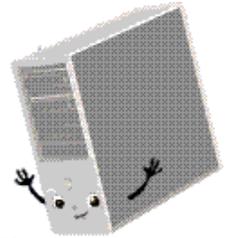
Osher Lifelong Institutes are established on college campuses because these institutions have resources and infrastructure that lends to building a rich, stimulating array of educational experiences for mature adults. The connection between OLLI members and the campus community is growing, as members are invited to campus symposia, such as the College of Natural and Behavioral Sciences Distinguished Speaker Luncheon, receptions, special lectures and cultural events that occur weekly. Our OLLI on-campus curriculum this spring consisted of 20 courses, most showing healthy enrollment which also contributes to the Institute by generating revenue from nominal course fees. CSUDH faculty, staff and emeritus faculty, OLLI/Omnilore experts and community experts volunteered to teach interesting topics. OLLI is establishing a stable instructor-led program, and the offerings will continue to expand. An OLLI curriculum committee is primarily responsible for developing campus-based courses and activities. They welcome additional

(continued on page 8)



Computer Talks

by Hal Hart
& Barbara Case



Omnilore Class Scheduling – A Heuristic Human/Computer Process

Thursday, May 28th 12-1 p.m. - Room 7

Ruth's "President's Message" on page 2 may satisfy some of you interested in knowing why your S/DG requests are sometimes satisfied and sometimes not, and how class times are picked. But, if you're curious enough to *look under the hood* of Omnilore's ingenious scheduling program, this Computer Talk is for you.

The talk will actually be a beginning-to-end demonstration of inputting the data for this summer's S/DG requests and generating the schedule by running the program. You will see the actual Macintosh computer screens with which we human operators (*originally John Taber, now Ruth & Hal Hart*) interact. You will see some of the *What-If Games* and trade-offs employed to optimize the schedule. (*"Optimality" is defined by Ruth on page 2.*)

A complete schedule can be generated via this Human-Computer interaction in anywhere from 2 to 10 hours, depending upon many factors — but because we know the answer (*which tricks turn out to work best for this data*), we'll take only about half an hour and then entertain questions and suggestions. And, there might be time for attendees to match their brain power against the heuristic process the Harts used and find an even better schedule.

If nothing else, attendees will gain a deeper appreciation for the recommendations at the end of Ruth's column concerning specifying backup S/DG requests and maximizing your available time-slots as they impact overall Omnilore success.

For further information, contact Ruth Hart (Ruth.Hart@Cornell.edu) or Hal Hart (Hal.Hart@ACM.ORG).

Tour the New Omnilore Website

Thursday, June 25th 12-1 p.m. - Room 7

Do you want to find out how to get the most out of our redesigned Omnilore Website? Do you want to become an instant expert at finding useful Omnilore forms, documents, training presentations, information, addresses, and more with the click of a mouse? Do you want to learn about that how that mysterious S/DG Folder works? How about recommendations for good books to read in your leisure or good websites to visit when doing Omnilore research -- do you want to learn about these, too?

June's Computer Talk will be a guided tour of our redesigned Omnilore Website. Come, sit back, and let Co-Webmasters **Barbara Case** and **Myron Pullen** take you for a rollicking, fun-filled test drive. They'll demonstrate all the inside scoop and answer any questions you might have about the new Website.

A Good Pun Is Its Own Re-Word

Omnilore Logo Contest

At the April board meeting a contest to select an owl image to serve as Omnilore's organizational logo was approved. The following conditions and parameters were designated.

- ▶ The image must be free of copyright entanglements.
- ▶ It must be representative of our organization.
- ▶ The image must be submitted in a format to be used in multiple ways – black/white and colored - for various printed and media purposes.
- ▶ The contest will be open for the period of one month, beginning May 1st until May 31st. All entries are to be submitted to **Myron Pullen** (mdpullen@earthlink.net) and must be accompanied by a copyright release form, which can be obtained from Myron (310-546-2155).
- ▶ After being screened by a special Board-appointed committee of **Janet Brown, Dale Korman and Myron Pullen**, appropriate images will be submitted to the Omnilore Board.
- ▶ The Omnilore Board of Directors will select the winning image at a regular board meeting, after notice to the membership and an opportunity for member input.
- ▶ In appreciation for the successful effort, the person who submits the winning image will be awarded a complimentary reservation for a future Omnilore Forum.

Any questions can be directed to Myron at 310-546-2155.



by
Hal Hart

THE EQUIPMENT BOX

In case you're not aware, we continually upgrade and add to our Omnilore-owned audio/visual equipment in response to members' requests and suggestions. Our standard equipment suite revolves around a multi-media digital-data projector (upgraded in 2007) stored in the equipment closet in each classroom. The projector connects to any of: the Desktop Presenter (one stored in each room) for display of hard-copy (non-electronic) materials, the DVD/VCR machine stored on the TV cart in each room, or anyone's laptop (PC or Mac). Additional equipment includes CD players, microphones, listening devices, cords and cables for connecting everything. We also have old Vu-graph machines and an audio tape player which work, but do not seem to be used anymore.

New equipment placed in both classrooms in the past few months includes:

1. small speakers for connection to laptops or the projectors,
2. adapters for 3 kinds of Mac laptops, converting to the projector's standard 14-pin VGA cable configuration,
3. small (black) gooseneck lamps for illuminating materials,
4. our own Omnilore wireless internet network in the classrooms so you can visit websites and do internet searches as part of presentations and other in-class activities (see Jan-Feb. 2009 newsletter or instruction signs in the classrooms),
5. A new, fully loaded Omnilore laptop PC (running XP) so you can bring your digital presentations in on a memory stick (flash drive) or CD, or access the internet.

(This acquisition replaces the old PC bought several years ago, which is currently non-functional. Thus, the new Omnilore laptop is effectively the only one Omnilore owns, is still locked in the special closet in Room 8, and must still be reserved ahead via the Omnilore Calendar Manager, Lynn Taber. A 2nd PC purchase is planned, and then each classroom will have a PC in its regular equipment closet, and reservations will become unnecessary. We'll let you know when we get there.)

For problems, help, training, or to submit suggestions concerning our equipment, contact: Equipment Manager: **Hal Hart** (Hal.Hart@ACM.ORG, 310/375-1851), or Laptop Administrator: **Rick Spillane** (RSpillane@ca.rr.com, 310/645-1431)

The Daily Breeze to Sponsor Their Expo on Successful Aging on May 30th

The Daily Breeze of the South Bay will sponsor a groundbreaking expo on Successful Aging designed for those 40 to 100. Featuring great music and a festive atmosphere, this FREE one-day event will be held at the Torrance Marriott Hotel and will be rich in resources and information. Visitors and participants will have the opportunity to visit over 50 booths of companies offering advice and services to each person seeking to age successfully. Omnilore has been invited to participate by exhibiting Omnilore material at the event.

Ongoing seminars will be offered on subjects such as brain health, finances, employment, nutrition, exercise and care-giving.

Speakers and topics include:

Steven Baldwin, R.D. – Nutrition and Successful Aging

Phil Cook, CFP – Basic Finances and How to Manage in the New Economy

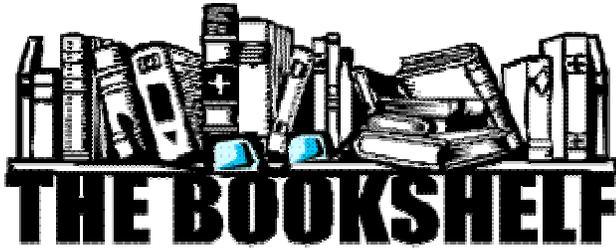
Bunni Dybnis, LMFT – Navigating the Eldercare Maze and Sustaining Care-giving

Joshua Grill, Ph.D. – Understanding and Lowering Your Risk for Alzheimer's Disease

Carleen MacKay – Employment During the Mature Years

Thomas Storer, Ph.D. – The Critical Role of Exercise in Aging Successfully

The expo will occur on **Saturday May 30, 2009** from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Torrance Marriott, 3635 Fashion Way, Torrance, CA 90503. Parking is free.



by Mary Oran

As summer approaches, we have three suggestions for excellent historical fiction. As you enjoy the warmer weather, consider letting these gems take you to another time.

Guernica by **David Boling** is the story of several generations of a Basque family and what they experienced living in a tiny city during the Spanish Civil War. This time period was a “practice war” for the German Air Force as they geared up for much larger actions during WWII. The Basque author offers a vivid portrayal of the events, and includes many historical figures, including Picasso, who immortalized Guernica after its bombing.

Thornton Wilder’s Ides of March, originally published in 1948, has just been reissued. Set in Julius Caesar’s Rome, this epistolary novel portrays Caesar, the human being. From meeting historical figures such as Cleopatra, Cicero, and Catullus to seeing the villas and slums, spies and assassins, beautiful women and

brawling youth, you are there!

The letters and documents contribute to the book’s contemporary feel.

Seventeenth century Quebec is the setting for **Shadows on the Rock**. It is another beautifully written classic by **Willa Cather**. A widowed apothecary and his young daughter are the featured characters. Into their lives come a variety of historical and fictional figures, all seeking cures. Traders, soldiers, rich men and poor offer a fascinating view of this French area in its early development.

For those of you who, at this point, can think of little else but the economy, an Omnioleorean offers this text – **Modern Portfolio Theory and Investment Analysis** (6th edition) by **Elton, Gruber, Brown, and Goetzmann**. While it is used as an MBA text, it is nonetheless rewarding for the average reader. The prose offers many studies and explanations of why most Mutual Funds and Advisor Strategies don’t live up to their promises. Additionally, it gives insights into many other financial areas including pricing theories and bond portfolios.

Do you ever wonder why some people seem to have more accidents than others? Do you worry about which is the safest

car or safest airplane seat? Then **The Survivors Club: The Secrets and Science That Could Save Your Life** is the book for you! Author **Ben Sherwood**, in the book’s first half, discusses what it takes to survive. The second part concentrates on “Are You A Survivor?” Among the things you will learn are: some people are born with a Resilience Gene; religious observance can add years to one’s life; and why good things always happen to the same people. Reviewers all used variations of the “riveting” for this one!

Finally, closer to home, consider **The Black Girl Next Door** by **Jennifer Bazile**. The writer’s family moved to the Palos Verdes Peninsula in the early 1970s, and this is a memoir of her school experiences (Rancho Vista, Lunada Bay, PV Intermediate, and Palos Verdes High), the overt and subtle racism that she and her family experienced, and the mixed messages that she and her older sister received from their parents. While her experience in PV was indeed challenging, her ultimate achievements are an inspiration.

(Our thanks to Al Blinder, Midge Solomon and Dan Stern for contributing to our list. Please send your recommendations to msoran@sbcglobal.net. Include title, author, and a very brief description of the content. Please put “Omnioleore books” as the subject of the email. We look forward to hearing from you!)

Omnioleore Technology and Culture Group Field Trip

by Chuck Gray

This trimester Omnioleore’s Technology and Culture group extended their normal study and discussion gathering with a field trip to Torrance Memorial Medical Center. Eighteen Omnioleoreans and their guests were treated to a very informative display of several medical technologies currently available at TMMC.

Our group received briefings by TMMC senior management on future plans for its expansion and the use of Information Technology in the maintenance of patients’ records. A resident radiologist gave a dramatic presentation on available body imaging technology, showing three-dimensional scanned images of patients with the ability to rotate these images in any direction for analysis. A video of Robotic Surgery was shown; this emerging technology offers hope for treatment of difficult-to-reach body parts while lessening chances of infection and reducing recovery time.

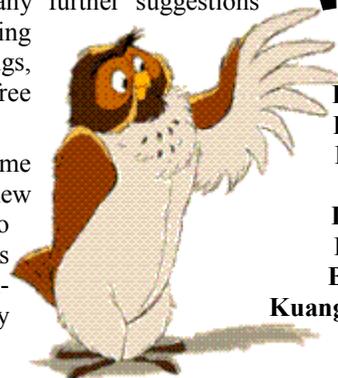
The final portion of our exciting visit was a tour of the Clinical Skills Laboratory. Here training of medical personnel was demonstrated using anatomical robotic manikins in all types of emergencies.

Omnioleore Welcomes New Members

by Howard Korman

Looking forward to the summer trimester, the Membership Committee held three “Introducing Omnioleore” meetings this spring. Twenty-six people attended; of those, 11 enrolled before the start of the new trimester. Many Omnioleore members helped by encouraging friends to get involved in Omnioleore and 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 motivated several people to attend. Flyers are posed in libraries for these meetings, and if anyone has any further suggestions for publicizing future meetings, please feel free to contact me.

Let’s welcome all our new members to the classes they have enthusiastically selected.



WELCOME!

- Louise Bahar**
- Judith Burke**
- Deanne Edridge**
- Kathleen Fisher**
- Patricia Hecker**
- John Luedde**
- Ionina McDonald**
- Karen Merickel**
- Beebe Moorhead**
- Kuang-yen & Patricia Shih**
- Ralph Singer**
- Raymond Soto**

OMNIOLORE
CALENDAR
2009

Spring



- | | |
|-------------|--|
| May | <p>1 Summer Trimester Begins
 5 Cinco de Mayo
 6 Last CSUDH Spring Lecture - 10-12 Noon - CSUDH
 10 Mother's Day
 12 Membership Committee - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 7
 14 Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon - 2 p.m. - Room 7
 15 Hiking Group - 10 a.m. - 12 Noon
 16 Armed Forces Day
 21 Presentations 101: The Workshop - 12 Noon -1:30 p.m.
 - Room 7 (see article page 4)
 25 Memorial Day Observed
 28 Computer Talks - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 7
 <i>Omnilore Class Scheduling</i> - Hal & Ruth Hart
 (see article page 5)</p> |
| June | <p>9 Membership Committee - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 7
 12 Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon - 2 p.m.
 14 Flag Day
 15 Input Deadline for July-August 09 Newsletter
 19 Hiking Group - 10 a.m. - 12 Noon
 21 Father's Day
 21 First Day of Summer
 25 Computer Talks - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 7
 <i>Tour the New Omnilore Website</i>
 - Barbara Case & Myron Pullen (see article page 5)</p> |

IMPORTANT:

Calendar changes and additions are scheduled with Lynn Taber

(continued from page 5) committee members to help identify topics and instructors that reflect and enhance the learning goals of the membership.

The support of OLLI/Omnilore members and campus faculty and staff has been necessary to meet goals for OLLI thus far. It is gratifying to see this cooperation as we work to achieve requirements for endowment. The College hopes to be prepared in fall 2009 to submit an application to the Osher Foundation for the endowment.

IN MEMORIAM

Long-time Omnilorean Dan Blatt has died. After being a member of PLATO for many years, he "transferred" to OMNIOLORE and continued his lifelong learning process. Anyone who was in a study/discussion group with Dan had to appreciate his contributions and his vast knowledge of literature and history. Before participating in these Learning-in-Retirement organizations, Dan was a Principal Appraiser for Los Angeles County

Everyone Should Enjoy Every Event by Jim O'Neill

Occasionally, I am told of Omniloreans annoyed by someone dominating the discussion. I have a few suggestions which may help.

Establish at the pre-meeting that EVERYONE gets a chance to contribute at every meeting. Put this up for a vote and you will get unanimous approval. You now have the class support in applying this ethos.

If some member forgets this and starts dominating, correct the behavior in a firm but kind manner. Remember it's not their fault - maybe their parents did not teach them properly. Just say, "Because everyone contributes I am going to call upon those who have not spoken so far."

Although tempting, avoid sarcasm - such as "We are impressed by your knowledge of the mating habits of the duck-billed platypus. If anyone feels this can assist their grandchildren to be accepted at Harvard they can wait until after class and take notes."

Avoid argumentation. Don't say, "I was taught the exact opposite at college."

Accept the expertise. "It's great to have an expert."

Praise it. "I thought I had learned this for my Master's, but you really know it."

Offer suggestions how it can benefit others. "I'm sure the people at Wikipedia would appreciate this. Anyone can submit an entry." Or, "You must not have a website. I Googled this yesterday and you were not even mentioned."

If none of this works, you may have to overcome their ego by pretending always to have superior knowledge. "Wikipedia is not always up to date. I had lunch with Dawkins last Wednesday and he told me the article was so yesterday." After a couple of these remarks, the dominator will leave the class to impress others at another venue.

With these techniques you can help the class, while having a lot of fun.

One word of caution. Make sure he/she is not a member of the NRA.