

College of Extended & International Education

May 2011 Newsletter

News & Notes

CEE Welcomes

- ♦ Officials from Jiangsu Province, China, May 30 - June 10, studying Statistics and Data Management

Programs and Events

- ♦ EKG Technician Information Session: June 7
- ♦ Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) Open House: June 7
- ♦ Personal Fitness Certification Information Session: June 7
- ♦ Pharmacy Technician Information Session: June 7

Important Deadlines

- ♦ Humanities External Degree (HUX) Fall 2011 Application Deadline: June 1
- ♦ USAC fall 2011 application deadlines: June 15 Chile, China, Costa Rica, England, France, Germany, India, Italy, Malta, Mexico, Spain; July 1 Thailand; August 1 Australia

CEE Staff Birthdays

- ♦ Marge Gordon
- ♦ Joanne Zitelli
- ♦ Michelle Bocalso
- ♦ Rodger Hamrick

HUX 2011 Graduate Lucila Maclaren

Lucilla Maclaren Spillane didn't have an easy start to her life or her education. At the age of seven, she contracted rubella, then developed epilepsy, and was out of school for two years. From nine to thirteen she was at a boarding school which was not accustomed to teaching children with epilepsy and was placed in a lower class. At thirteen, she contracted rheumatic fever, and was hospitalized for two years, ending her primary education.

Fortunately, she had a few things going for her. One was good genes. She is the daughter of Scottish poet Hamish Maclaren. When she was four, she had been taught to read by her mother, often met her father's poet friends, and later wrote poetry of her own. Finally, all her battles with disease in childhood and with people who constantly reminded her of what she could not do because she had epilepsy, toughened her up. Lucilla rebelled and decided she would do things that people told her she shouldn't. She went with a friend to the beach at Cornwall in England and for the first time had the thrill of going in the water. She found that she could swim! Whilst her friend was asleep in the sun, Lucilla was swept out to sea, but didn't panic. She swam parallel to the shore (exactly what you're

supposed to do), and made it back to the beach.

Fast forward and many decades later she went with her husband, Martin, to Madison, Wisconsin. By then her epilepsy was controlled with medication and, although still a rebel, she lacked confidence in her academic abilities. Persuaded by her husband, she enrolled in an extension class in poetry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She did very well and the professor encouraged her to enroll in a 699 poetry class. Only later did she realize that 699 was a graduate course!

From that beginning, she went on to gain a bachelor's degree from Western Illinois University and in 2001 was accepted for citizenship. She gained the confidence to go on to graduate work and this year, at the ripe young age of 70, she earned her degree in the Master of Arts Humanities External Degree (HUX) program. Her focus was on poetry (what else?), and her thesis is on the English poet A.E. Housman. She believes that he initiated a paradigm shift in making poetry more accessible to people of all ages and from all backgrounds. She feels that Housman's style also led to the spread of short, rhyming poetry. "If you look at the poets of the Victorian era," she says, "their writing was very flowery. It was often beautiful, but just as often it was boring and somewhat impenetrable." She argues that "Housman was not only much more approachable, but his poetry could be read at different levels, offering different values for each audience." She herself had read Housman as a girl, and reading him now as an adult, discerns entirely new meanings.



Lucila Maclaren

Having tackled a master's degree, Lucilla has now set her sights on a doctorate, for which she would examine her own father's works, which have not been previously studied. She gives great credit to the HUX program in her own development and says "A university education should not just teach you, it should teach you to think. The HUX program broadened my thinking and encouraged me to continue to challenge accepted ideas, even in academia."

2011 CEE Graduates

CEE would like to congratulate our 2011 special sessions graduates. This year, 229 students earned their degrees through special sessions programs. Graduates include 52 M.A. Humanities, 21 M.A. Negotiation, Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping, 35 Master of Business Administration, 15 Master of Public Administration, 17 M.S. Nursing, 12 M.S. Quality Assurance, 12 B.S. Applied Studies, 64 B.S. Nursing, and 1 B.S. Quality Assurance.

NCRP Graduate Seeks to Help Nepal

After getting her undergraduate degree at the University of San Francisco, Brianna Tyler was twenty-two years old with a good job and a nice apartment. But for her, something was still missing, so she decided to go to Ghana and teach sustainability. She wanted to help the small villages dig wells and create sustainable food and water systems. After getting involved with Rotary Club to prepare for her trip, a friend suddenly called and offered her a trip to Asia.

Tyler didn't turn down the once in a lifetime opportunity to travel across the globe and broaden her horizons. Having cancelled her trip to Ghana, she was soon living in Katmandu, Nepal. She was looking for a program from an accredited university that had an online Master of Arts program. She was living in a country that was going through a revolution and she was very interested in how she could help.

She was very happy to have found the M.A. Negotiation Conflict Resolution & Peacekeeping program at CSUDH and its professors. It was her first time in an online environment, but she was able to navigate it with ease. "The professors are phenomenal," She said. "They are so accessible. Even though I was 12 hours and 45 minutes ahead, they responded quickly to my communications and were very pleasant."

She was relieved when she could "have her cake and eat it too." She could live where she wanted and study what she wanted.

She graduated on May 20, 2011 with an emphasis in International Negotiation. She will return to Nepal at the end of the summer. Her hope is to help the country where she has lived for nearly 4 years through its difficult times.

HUX Student Wins Statewide Research Competition

David Marks made California State University Dominguez Hills proud when he won first place in Humanities at the California State University Student Research Day held at Cal State Fresno on May 6, 2011. He presented his research comparing the fictional worlds of authors Thomas Hardy and H.P. Lovecraft, the latter of whom is credited as the inspiration to authors today such as Stephen King.

During his presentation, he was supported by Dr. Laura Robles, Dean of the College of Natural and Behavioral Sciences, and Geneva Williams, Administrative Support Assistant for Research & Funded Projects. The two ladies sat in the audience with the judges and some of Marks' competitors as he presented his research.

"I was just a little nervous because I didn't know the quality of work that I was competing against," Marks said. "It was very rewarding to see the kinds of research the other students were doing."

He was particularly confident about his research and his presentation. His nervousness only arrived when he thought about the other contestants in the competition.

Marks was impressed and very interested in one study that discussed how the use of email communication between a professor and student can change the students academic outcome in a course.

"It was a great experience," Marks said. "I really enjoyed seeing the other students' research and representing a program I feel so strongly about."

He maintains that CSUDH's Humanities Master of Arts Ex-

ternal Degree (HUX) program is very inspiring. He looks forward to potential enrollment in a doctoral program and would like to return to CSUDH to teach.

"The way this program [HUX] is structured is almost revolutionary," Marks said. "It's structured but still allows its students to creatively explore their fields of study and be independent. In a weird way, this program is ahead of its time."



David Marks

International Education Reception

The College of Extended and International Education held a reception for international students in the Loker Student Union on Monday, May 16. Exchange students from around the world, as well as past and future CSUDH exchange students attended. The highlight of the event was a dance recital by SEED (USAID's Scholarships for Education and Economic Development) students from Central America.



CSUDH International Students at the reception in their honor.



Students from Central America via the SEED Program perform a traditional dance at the International Student Reception