Hinman Ushers USD into a New Universe

By Jill Wagner

Art covers the walls not occupied by bookshelves. A fresh pot of coffee is always brewing. Hundreds of classic volumes of moral philosophy are piled on floor-to-ceiling bookshelves. Ethics journals and copies of current articles on moral issues abound. A corner is set aside for student and professional philosophers to gather and discuss what they just read.

This is the perfect seminar room envisioned by Larry Hinman, professor in the philosophy department. It would be a costly endeavor, though, to gather all those books and periodicals, acquire the art, and make the room comfortable and conducive to study. Hinman found a way around that cost, however, and is in the midst of building this ideal room on the World Wide Web, where access to all sorts of books, magazines and art is available and essentially free. The only thing missing in his virtual seminar room is the coffee, Hinman quips.

What originally started as a means to keep information included in his recently published textbook up to date — and available electronically through the Internet — quickly turned into a project of its own, Hinman says. Last summer, he sat down to build the Web site and discovered a vast amount of ethics-related material was already available in cyberspace. He set out to organize it into one "room" that is easy to navigate and fun to hang around.

The Ethics Updates site is found under "departments" on USD's homepage and is among the first of what should be many well-designed, graphically pleasing sites showing off the university to students, researchers and everyday cybersurfers from around the world.

President Alice B. Hayes has expressed on several occasions, including her inaugural speech, that she envisions a fully wired campus with students and employees studying, researching and communicating electronically. The Information Superhighway is poised to one day become as commonly traversed as Anytown, USA's Main Street, and folks like Hayes and Hinman are doing their part to make the roadside stops familiar and comfortable.

Hinman's site opens with a beautiful reproduction of Raphael's "The School of Athens" and invites visitors to explore ethical theory, applied ethics, the periodicals room or the reference room. Bibliographic (Continued on page four)
Benefit Briefs

Many employees enroll their child(ren) in summer camp programs as an alternative to day care. Be aware that the cost of certain summer camp programs is not eligible for reimbursement as a dependent care expense. The sponsor of the camp must be a licensed day care provider such as the YMCA in order for the expenses to qualify for reimbursement.

Scudder investment company has added "Scudder Global Discovery Fund" to its family of mutual funds. The fund generally invests in small, rapidly growing companies that offer the potential for above-average returns relative to large companies. The fund has the flexibility to invest in any region of the world. Prospectus for each of Scudder's 24 funds are available in human resources.

TIAA/CREF is an insurance company that offers retirement investments through fixed and variable “annuities.” An annuity is a contract by which an insurance company agrees to make regular retirement income payment to someone for life or for a fixed period.

Investment in TIAA’s fixed annuity guarantees principal and a specified interest rate and may also offer dividends. CREF, on the other hand, invests in the market.

CREF’s Variable Annuity offers no guarantee, and the value fluctuates based on market performance. Today, CREF offers a variety of options, including Stock, Money Market, Bonds, Social Choice, Global Equities, Equity Index or Growth funds. Investors may divide their contributions between TIAA and the seven options in CREF. These investment options are offered under TIAA/CREF’s Retirement (RA), Group Retirement (GRA), and Supplemental Retirement (SRA) annuity contracts.

— Vicki Coscia

Counselor’s Enthusiasm Inspires Pride

By Jill Wagner

Kelly Farland keeps an oversized piece of cardboard in his Serra Hall office with a list of questions written in various styles and colors of ink. It’s the place student volunteer tour guides go when a campus visitor has asked a question they cannot answer or that is too funny not to share.

The current list includes: “What does the blue signify on top of the Immaculata?” and “Are the apartments so far away from the cafeteria because they think USD students need more exercise?”

As adviser to the Toureros, Farland is one of the guardians of USD history. He responds to even the most off-the-wall questions and will include the new information in the tour guide training program if it’s relevant. The stories told to potential students and interested parents on the tours are often the first bits of USD history they hear, and Farland makes sure it is precise.

Farland learned firsthand what it takes to be a knowledgeable and effective tour guide when he led visitors around the Arizona State University campus during his undergraduate years there. The experience made Farland a natural choice to revamp the struggling Toureros program when he joined undergraduate admissions in 1992. He learned USD history simply by living it and having longtime employees such as Terry Whitcomb follow his guides around, filling in blanks or correcting misconceptions. The all-volunteer Toureros is now an official student organization with 35 guides who lead 12 tours a week.

Farland's work with the Toureros and as an admission officer has earned the praise of students and co-workers alike, who admire his enthusiasm and love for the university. Last month he was awarded the first Parents Association Award of Excellence, which is given to a staff member who exhibits daily USD's motto, “Emittre Spiritum Tuum — Send Forth Thy Spirit.”

“(Kelly) emanates pride in USD,” senior Nicole Misseneo wrote in a letter of nomination. "His positive outlook has inspired all of our (Toureros) members to take pride in our school. If he's not in his office, he's out on the road promoting USD.”

Farland's fall semester road trips take him to Arizona, Colorado and other states east of Mississippi, where he attends college fairs and visits high schools to recruit USD applicants. In the spring, he and the five other admission counselors return to campus and the lengthy process of reading applications begins.

Throughout the second semester Farland continues to build relationships with the hopeful applicants and their families, acting as a counselor to help them through the admissions process and the initial move away from home.

“Mom and Dad aren't necessarily going to feel comfortable about their student leaving, so I may symbolize to them somebody who they can trust and who is going to be concerned about their student,” Farland says.

As for little known campus facts, Farland too is the guy to trust. Yes, he's heard all the ghost stories, but you'll have to ask him yourself if they are true. No, we most certainly should not walk on the tiled seal in Maher Hall. And yes, there's a magical new place on campus known as Echo Point. It's near the west end of the fountain plaza next to the half-circle of benches that surround the small fountain. Visit the spot to discover the meaning of its name for yourself.
The staff of the legal clinic includes (front row from left to right): Nancy Keosayan, Patty Cortez, Nina Crow and Theresa Player; (back row from left to right): Steve Hartwell, Richard "Corky" Wharton, Laura Berend, Georgia Gordon, Allen Snyder and Kim Lewis; (not pictured): Mary Steele-Klein and Jan Bejar.

1. Where is your department located?

Our department is located in the law school building, Warren Hall, on the third floor in room 308.

2. What are the functions of your department?

Our department functions as a small law office. We provide free legal services to low-income people who reside in San Diego County. We have various clinics that make up the department, including the civil, environmental, criminal, immigration and mental health clinics.

3. What is the biggest challenge your department faces?

Probably the biggest challenge is trying to provide legal services to as many clients as possible. We are only able to provide services to a fraction of the many requests we receive each day.

4. How has your department changed during the past 10 years?

We have recently updated our computer facilities, which now include a computer research room for the clinic's students.

5. What is the one thing you would like the campus community to know about your department and its functions?

Because we are funded in part by a grant, we can only see clients who are low-income (that is, clients who fall at or below the federal poverty guidelines). These income guidelines apply to USD employees as well.

Surf's Up

The days are longer, the sun is warmer and plans are in the works for a super cool Employee Appreciation Picnic. Start digging out the wild swim trunks and zinc oxide because the annual party, dubbed "Surf City USD" by the campus dudes and dudettes, is scheduled for noon to 3:30 p.m. June 7 at the Sports Center pool.

In the meantime, for all you non-native, non-beachgoing San Diegans, you better hit the shores in preparation for next month's unique contest. You'll be challenged to identify local surfing hotspots pictured in the next issue of the Alcalá View and beat the native beach bums to a totally awesome prize that will be awarded at the picnic.
Debate Watch '96

The following committees, which make up USD's Presidential Debate Task Force, will oversee planning and staging of the October debate:

Operations Committee
- Jack Cannon, chair
- Kate Callen
- John Forbes
- Don Johnson
- Roger Manion
- Maria Martinez-Cosio
- Antoine Marcias
- David McCluskey
- Rudy Spano
- Greg Zackowski

Student Program Committee
- Greg Zackowski, chair
- Members to be named

Special Events Committee
- Esther La Porta, chair
- Members to be named

Community, Government and Civic Committee
- Maria Martinez-Cosio, chair
- Members to be named

New Universe

(Continued from page one)

information, the text of articles and class syllabi are a few of the resources gathered in Hinman's Ethics Update.

"Building a Web site is as much about the psychology of organizing information as it is about providing the information," he says. "I hope to provide an anchor for all the philosophy resources out there."

The professor says he spends two to three hours a day adding to and fine-tuning the site. He is brimming with ideas to enhance the pages and make them useful for all types of philosophers.

Meanwhile, several other groups and individuals on campus are updating USD's homepage, adding department pages and working toward creating a site useful to employees, students, alumni, college-bound high school students and the media. Information currently available through the site includes staff and student directories, course schedules, program descriptions, a calendar of events and alumni association news. The USD site can be found at http://www.acusd.edu. Hinman's site can be accessed directly at http://www.acusd.edu/~hinman.

Editor's note: This is the first in an occasional series highlighting Web sites designed by faculty and staff. If you have created a site you think should be featured, contact Jill Wagner at ext. 4684.

Walk For Someone You Love

Join the SEA and support the March of Dimes Walk America on Saturday, April 27. For more information, contact Sandy Archambo at ext. 4523.