

Undergraduate Research Newsletter

Summer Edition (Issue 2), June 1, 2009

June 3, 2009, 12:00 pm
Samuelson Pavilion

Wednesday's Featured Speaker

Damian Stocking, Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies

How NOT to Do Humanities Research:

An Investigation into the Life, Thought and Work of A. Phyllis Stein

Samuelson Pavilion, includes lunch!



Socrates had his Diotima; less fortunate than Socrates, Professor Stocking's formative years as a literary critic were spent under the tutelage of A. Phyllis Stein, a mechanical and civil engineer, as well as the author of a number of bestselling books on the meaning of art. In his forthcoming lecture, Professor Stocking will confront directly the mostly malign influence his old teacher had upon his thinking, even as he attempts to formulate his own way of approaching the study of literature and the arts.

Pick up your first checks this Friday (June 5th)!
You will be notified by email
where to pick them up.



The Impact of *South of Nowhere* on LGBT Youth



With four more states allowing gay marriage in just the past year, and closer to home the recent fight over Proposition 8, LGBT issues have been in the media quite a bit. Carrie Wade wanted to know how LGBT youth have been effected by increased media attention by looking specifically at the television show *South of Nowhere*. Wade (Music '10) decided to "flex a different part of [her] brain" this summer by doing Sociology research with Richard Mora. *South of Nowhere* is a recently completed television series aimed at the "teen drama demographic", but with the twist of making the main couple two girls. The show deals with the normal issues that every teenager faces but includes issues of coming out and dealing with being in a lesbian relationship.

Wade admits that she was "a little too old" for the show but she was "fascinated by the group of actors and the network that were brave enough to put it on TV", especially considering the young audience it is aimed at (13-19 years). For her research this summer, she asks "Did it matter?" To answer this question she will not have to look far. "There is a shockingly large fan presence on the internet. They're like SO into it!", she said. She intends to ask for responses over message boards dedicated to the show and hopefully form a focus group at Oxy for the fans who live in the area. She doesn't expect a universally positive response: fans have expressed frustration over censorship of intimacies in the lesbian couple's relationship (they act more like best friends) and just the fact that the show is not around anymore (there isn't any comparable show). She's also curious to get in touch with the actors, the actresses who play the main couple are straight and she wonders why they would want to take on this project.

Want to see your research featured here? Contact mstewart@oxy.edu

Weekend Ideas

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| June 5, 2009 12:00 noon-5:00 pm | Free Admission to the Pasadena Museum of California Art 490 E Union St Pasadena, CA 91101 http://pmcaonline.org |
| June 6-7, 2009 9:00 am-5:00 pm | Pacific Islander Festival, Aquarium of the Pacific 100 Aquarium Way Long Beach, CA 90802 http://www.aquariumofpacific.org/newsevents/ |
| June 6, 2009 | Griffith Park Contact ResLife for details |
| June 7, 2009 10:30 am-7:00 pm | Lummis Day Festival The Fourth Annual Festival of Northeast Los Angeles http://www.lummisday.org |
| June 7, 2009 11:00 am | The Music Circle presents David Philipson on bansuri and Abiham Kaushal on tabla Traditional Indian Music www.MusicCircle.org Herrick Chapel, Free |
| June 7, 2009 | Up! at El Capitan Theater Contact ResLife for details |