Humanities

CONTINUED FROM PG. 6 tion between relevance and intrinsic value does not exist.

Daukas, who earned her Ph.D from UC Berkeley and is in her fourth year at Guilford, comments that the "practical relevance" of philosophy is that it "is and always has been an important part of constructing a meaningful life. It is a dangerous trend to equate the value of a study with a job." In the long run, she states that the study of philosophy develops invaluable skills: "it prepares you to be responsible and sensitive to the complexity and amazingness of people, society and the natural world."

Kircher, who got his Ph.D from Yale and has taught at Guilford since 1989, agrees that the questioning required by liberal arts studies is exceedingly important to leading a full life. He cited the Socratic maxim "An unexamined life is not worth living" as a foundation of education. "It is a false dichotomy to deny the relevance [of studies such as history.] There is overwhelming evidence to show that technology fields are looking for wellrounded liberal arts graduates who demonstrate acuity in thinking and can write with clarity," he continues.

He discussed the timelessness of the lessons from history that makes it important, stating that some ideas "transcend the time and place in which they are written. They are relevant throughout classes, conditions, and countries and will remain so."

Daukas herself was drawn to philosophy during her sophomore year, when she at-

Features The Guilfordian A closer look at the **Community of Writers**

BY ZACK HAMPLE Staff Writer

"Whenever I go to COW, my papers are much more polished," said freshman Tom Brewster in describing his experiences at Community of Writers.

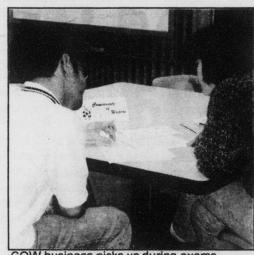
Community of Writers is an effective program. Student tutors work with tutees in ways which enable them to help and learn from each other. These stories and quotes are proof.

Lynn Walter, a COW tutor, explained her role as "giving people confidence, being positive, and being encouraging. I've helped people realize the patterns of error that they make."

Lynne also described how she improved as a writer due to her work as a tutor: "Community of Writers has helped me with my own writing because I practice talking and thinking about writing more than the average student."

Max Shmidheiser has gone several times for help at COW. "I'm glad they're there," he said. "They point out errors in my writing style. [It's] a joint effort in proofreading. It's both of you sitting down with the paper."

One reason why Max (and others) has improved as a writer is that he accepts criticism. It's tough to hear someone point out your flaws, but COW tutors do it in ways that make you feel good and make you want to learn.



two things about COW are getting to help oth-

ers and becoming a better writer. I have no-

ticed that my own writing has improved be-

COW business picks up during exams. PHOTO BY SARAH GIVENS

cause I now have more writers with which to compare myself."

Another tutor, Sara Johnson, stressed the value of COW by saying, "It's good to have a second party to help you see what you're writing."

Sophomore Eva Paige has regularly been working one-on-one with a tutor named Bill

out history.

Jeff Jeske discussed the original curriculum of Guilford. This curriculum included three programs: Latin, Science, and an amalgam of the two. During this and subsequent periods, pre-professional programs such as business, education, management and accounting, held a sub-ordinate role to the humanities. The new program tries to eliminate this hierarchy, to be a more inclusive curriculum to which each department contributes. We're all focusing on values, cultural and global awareness," he comments.

Still, some humanities professors express concern over the reduction of faculty at Guilford, which they feel may hurt the humanities and the social sciences. "The humanities raise questions that may challenge the foundations of the new educational current," commented Kircher.

Traveling back to the birth of humanism out of the Renaissance, Kircher reminds us that liberal arts were described as such because they "liberate and teach about freedom from conventional ways of learning."

So put that in your web site.

Allison Mowrer, a tutor, said, "The best McCarver. They both flashed smiles as they spoke about their time together at COW.

Eva said that Bill helps her see improvements that she would otherwise miss. Bill said,

"As a tutor, I learn as much or more than the tutees. [Being a tutor has] helped me because of the mistakes I see in other people's writing."

April 10, 1998

Bob Ensign is a CCE student who also received help from Bill. About his experience, Bob said, "I gained different insight into the kind of writing I was doing. What I wrote was melodramatic, and he showed me how to turn it around and make it a dramatic paper. It's a good program. I think everybody would benefit from sitting down with one of their papers with a COW."

Editor's note: With only four weeks to go in the semester, you're destined to have lots of

papers to write. COW is a great service. It's here for you. Take advantage of it. COW tutors are available 6 to 9pm on Tues., Wed., and Sun. For more information, call the Academic Skills Center at x2253.

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Sid and Nancy are dead. Tim and Nancy still teach at Guilford. PHOTO BY AGNIESZKA FRANKOWSKI

tended Swarthmore College before transferring to UC Berkeley. She described her realization that the study was what she had been seeking but "didn't know was there. It wasn't really a rational decision," she continues. "I was just smitten."

In her professorial life, she feels that her philosophical beliefs influence the way she adteaches. In her personal life, she states that philosophy has informed the way she has raised her child. "The study of philosophy] is central for bringing together reflections on experience," she concludes

vises

made the decision to study history as an under-

graduate because he found the questions about people's motivations that it raised "compelling" and the empirical evidence it includes satisfy-

As a professor he has enjoyed being a medium through whomstudents can encounter the ideas he has found meaningful concerning the transformation of events through-

and

Kircher