

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 well-rounded 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-



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 ad-

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.

Allison Mowrer, a tutor, said, "The best two things about COW are getting to help others and becoming a better writer. I have noticed that my own writing has improved be-

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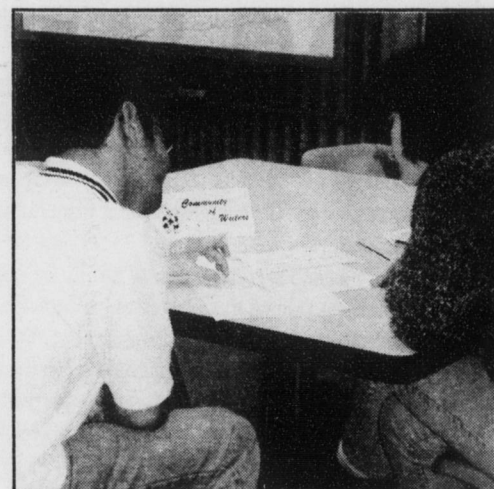
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COW business picks up during exams.

PHOTO BY SARAH GIVENS

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