



Bonner Center for Character Education
and Citizenship

ANCILLARY UNIT REPORT: 2009-2010

Purpose of Ancillary Unit

The KSOEHD's Bonner Center for Character Education and Citizenship was formed in 1997 to promote character education in the Central Valley through providing nationally recognized speakers for the Fresno area, forums on character education and professional ethics, materials and other professional resources for review, and coordination for a variety of character award programs.

Administrative Housing of Ancillary Unit

The Bonner Center for Character Education and Citizenship is an authorized Ancillary Unit of the CSU Fresno and the KSOEHD. Dr. Jacques Benninga is its director and Dr. Pam Lane-Garon is its Associate Director. The Center's activities are guided by an Advisory Board composed of KSOEHD faculty, public school personnel from Fresno, Tulare, Kings and Madera counties and a representative of the Bonner Family Foundation.

Major Accomplishments for 2009-2010

1. Twenty-six new scripts were written in 2010 for the 7th year of the KVPR (89.3 FM) series, "The Moral Is..." narrated by Kaye Cummings. "The Moral Is..." is a series of short essays, sponsored by the Bonner Center, on current moral issues. The program continues to be aired twice weekly on Sunday and Wednesday. For 2010 new professors were recruited to write (in addition to Benninga) including: Dr. Alicia Hall (Philosophy), Dr. Andrew Fiala (Philosophy), Dr. Ida Jones (Business), Dr. Honora Chapman (Classics). The 26 scripts will run and then be repeated so that the show will run bi-weekly for an entire year.
2. The class, Principles of Character Education (CI 124) was canceled by the university for Fall 2009. Instead, we planned a two-day seminar with Hal Urban. On Friday, October 23, 300 pre-teachers (all of the elementary and secondary teaching candidates at Fresno State) went to an all-day session with Dr Hal Urban, and on Saturday, October 24, 300 university supervisors and Master Teachers went through a half-day training with Dr. Urban. Thus in two days Dr. Urban gave an extensive session to 600 pre-teachers, university supervisors and local teachers. Each participant was given a book (from the Bonner Center). This turned out to be the largest single two-day training in explicit character education strategies we've ever put on and was the direct result of the Bonner Family Foundation's extra gift.
3. The 26h Annual Conference on Character and Civic Education was held in April 2010. Fresno Pacific students and faculty joined our CSU Fresno students and faculty. Approximately 500 students attended as well as local educators. Dr. Nel Noddings of Stanford University was our keynote speaker. Her topic related to the ethics of caring. In addition there were 36 breakout sessions and two general sessions. Dr. Noddings' visit was co-sponsored by the University's Ethics Center (Andrew Fiala, Director). Written feedback from all attendees have been collected and evaluated. The conference was an overwhelming success and received very positive feedback from participants.
4. The 23rd Annual Virtues and Character Recognition Program (2010) recognized 23 elementary schools for exemplary character education programs, including all the elementary schools in Sanger, Unified School District. Its superintendent was given a special recognition. Winning schools for 2010 included:

CENTERVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Sanger Unified School District

MICKEY COX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Clovis Unified School District

DEL REY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Sanger Unified School District

FAIRMONT SCHOOL

Sanger Unified School District

FIGARDEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Fresno Unified School District

HOMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Fresno Unified School District

JACKSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Sanger Unified School District

JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Sanger Unified School District

LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Sanger Unified School District

LONE STAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Sanger Unified School District

MADISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Sanger Unified School District

MONTE VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Porterville Unified School District

OAK GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Burton School District

JOHN PERSHING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Madera Unified School District

JAMES POLK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Central Unified School District

QUAIL LAKE ENVIRONMENTAL CHARTER SCHOOL

Sanger Unified School District

5. Jack Benninga was invited to a specially called panel at the Hoover Institution (Stanford University) in January 2009 to work as part of a group of Hoover scholars seeking to infuse principles of democracy and democratic understandings into the school curriculum. Others invited included professors from Clark University, NYU, George Mason University Law School, and Stanford. In June 2010 Benninga will speak at a conference in New York (coordinated by Stanford's Center on Adolescence), "American Identity Renewed". It is hoped that this conference will initiate a new effort to infuse democratic principles and behaviors in America's schools.
6. Jack has continued his advisory work for Character Counts!, and his membership on the Academic Advisory Panel at Stanford University's Center on Adolescence. He is an active member on the editorial board of the Journal for Research in Character Education. As well, Jack is a core member of the University's Ethics Committee, and its Honor Code Committee.

7. The enforcement of Fresno State's honor code has been turned over to a University Senate sub-committee. This means it has been institutionalized. Every faculty member is required to include the honor code in his/her syllabus and to discuss the contents with students. The university has also established an ad hoc Honor Code Committee chaired by Dr. Paul Oliaro, Vice President for Student Affairs & Dean of Students. Jack is a member of that committee.
8. The furniture, particularly the books shelves, in the Bonner Center (4th floor of the ED Building) were replaced and many new materials and books were placed there in 2009. We've had a bit of a problem with missing materials and books and a decision was made that the materials were not to be checked out without permission. Continual updating has occurred and missing materials/books have largely been replaced.
9. Jack completed the writing (with Susan Tracz) of a project analyzing what happens to exemplary character education programs in schools once school leadership changes. This is a major problem in education. The manuscript, titled "Continuity and Discontinuity in Character Education" is now a chapter in the book edited by Terry Lovat of the University of Newcastle in Australia, Handbook of Values Education and Student Wellbeing. New York: Springer.

Goals and Objectives for 2010-2011

Several areas will receive primary attention by the Bonner Center in 2010-11. These include:

- a. Research. David Tanner, Richard Sparks and Jacques Benninga are analyzing data on professional ethical understandings that was collected during the FUSD Partnership in character education grant. Work will continue in summer 2010 with the expectation of a publishable manuscript to result.
- b. Writing. Jack will be on sabbatical in Fall 2010 and will write several manuscripts related to professional ethical training in schools and dispositions guiding schools of education.
- c. Writing. Scripts for the 8th year of the KVPR series, The Moral is, will be written
- d. Conference Planning. The 2011 Conference on Character and Civic Education. The year 2010-11 will be spent raising the necessary funds for the conference and planning its events.
- e. Collaboration. The Bonner Center will continue work in collaboration with other ethics-related centers on campus to infuse a sense of academic integrity in all aspects of the workings of the campus.
- f. Other. Other areas to receive attention in 2010-11 include the materials collection in the Bonner Center, consultation with schools, speaking engagements, and instructional programs, and planning for the 24th Virtues and Character Recognition Awards (to be given to area middle schools, April 2011).