

HEOC CONNECTION SPRING EDITION 2007

Hello, welcome to the spring edition of the HEOC Connection! Time is short, so let's cut to the chase:

Get on the Highway: Conquering Your HEOC Fears, Erin Kimura

A Tribute to the Great Job Talks of 2007, Nolan Cabrera

Tips for How to Survive Your Exams, Julie Park

NEW!!! **The Billy Goat: An Advice Column**, Bill Purdy

Stuff You Don't Have Time to Read/Watch, Julie Park

A Tribute to Mike Knox, the HEOKidz

See you at the Spring social!

The HEOC Connection Editors

Keep...

On...

Scrolling...

No

Time

For Fancy...

Clip Art!

Get on the Freeway: Conquering your HEOC Fears

By Erin Kimura-Walsh

Life in HEOC can be a scary thing. There are so many things to be afraid of:

- Your first class presentation
- Your first conference proposal
- The DAP
- The QUALS

And there are those bigger scary questions:

- Am I good enough?
- Is my research important?
- Am I asking the right questions?
- What should I do after this?

Recently, my biggest fears were not HEOC-related but instead involved learning to drive. Last year at age 30, I got married and moved to the suburbs where the bus only comes once an hour. In other words, I finally had to learn how to drive. After driving my little new-to-me used Civic around the neighborhood for a few months, I drove to the train station and while waiting for the train, I called Kimberly Griffin. The conversation went something like this:

KG: Where are you?

EKW: At the train station. I'm going to Santa Clara University (about 25 miles south)

KG: Erin, why don't you drive there?

EKW: I'm afraid to get on the freeway.

KG: Erin, seriously, you are a 30-year-old woman. You should be ashamed! You cannot let your life be ruled by fear.¹

The next day, sweaty palms clutching the steering wheels, I got on to the freeway, drove down about three exits and turned around and came back. Kimberly had shamed me into driving on the freeway. And, over time, my palms have become much less sweaty.

While life, including life in HEOC, can be scary, we cannot let our lives be controlled by fear. If we do, fear can perpetually postpone our dissertation proposals because we are afraid of asking the wrong questions, convince us not to resubmit papers that we got rejection letters on, stifle our voices in class. We can become paralyzed by fear and by doing this we disrespect ourselves as women, men, emerging scholars. Easier said than done, but we have to overcome these fears. Some suggestion I have to do this are:

1. Acknowledge them to ourselves and others (and don't worry because as far as I know we all have them. And I definitely do, so you are welcome to talk to me about them)
2. Challenge and silence our irrational fears--most, if not all, of these fears are fantasies we've created.
3. Support ourselves by acknowledging our strengths, taking care of ourselves.
4. Look to our friends for support (and in return support them, even if it requires a little tough love, like shaming them)
5. Remind ourselves that we all make and learn from and rise above our mistakes, both small and big.

This past week, a few of us girls got together for "Appreciate Our Fabulousness Night" during which we ate, drank and shared notes documenting each member's wonderful qualities. Yes, guys and gals, you snicker...but we really appreciate our fabulousness far too little since it can help us overcome our fears, regain our determination, and, to put it simply, make us feel all warm and fuzzy inside. So here's my "Appreciate Your Fabulousness" note to you:

You are each amazing emerging scholars with great intelligence and good hearts. There is nothing to be afraid of. Get on the freeway!

¹ This conversation was not tape-recorded or transcribed verbatim, and as been recalled from memory. Member checking was done by Kimberly Griffin who had the opportunity to revise and edit the narrative. She would like to point out that she said all of this out of love.

A TRIBUTE TO MITCH

Editors Note: The Student Affairs job search of 2007 was quite an affair. Although there were some disagreements within our little community, everyone could laugh at Bill Purdy's wise assessment that Mitch Chang's research indeed is like the sweet combination of vanilla and waffles. The next morning, one of the Connection editors found this mysterious graphic in her inbox...there is some disagreement on the exact wording of the quote, with some thinking that it was really "Mitch's research is like vanilla and waffles, you can't get enough!" But we'll let the person (cough, Nolan) who actually took the time to diagram the vanilla (two kinds! Bean or extract?!), waffle, and Mitch relationship to be the final authority on that...the editors also apologize for messing up the graphic by putting it in portrait format instead of landscape!

"Like vanilla and waffles, you just can't get enough Mitch"
- "Wild" Bill Purdy
2/13/07



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EXAMS! EXAMS! EXAMS! EXAMS! EXAMS! EXAMS!

Springtime is in the air, but the hearts of many HEOCers will remain heavy until exam season passes. Yes, it's time for the DAP/MCE/Quals! And who said that the holidays were the most wonderful time of the year?!

Some tips:

- 1) Know your writing style and budget time accordingly. One disadvantage of cramming everything into one weekend is that it tends to favor those who can write quickly versus our "bricklayer" friends. Don't get stuck on one question, **just keep going!**
- 2) Quals: **Be prepared to be flexible on the article critique** unless you really, really, really know that you're quan-only or qual-only. I was all ready to do the quantitative article; everyone told me that it was easier and more straightforward. I had heard that even qualitative lovers often did the quan article. I remember opening the packet and skimming the qualitative article—it looked strange and tricky, good thing I had borrowed Victor's copy of "101 Statistical Tests" to help me ace the quan article that was waiting to be dominated. But imagine my horror when I looked at the quan article and found...a path model! ("are those ARROWS?!") Having not taken SEM, this was not happy news. Fortunately, the qualitative article ended up being really interesting and dare I say, fun to critique. Yes, life is strange so be prepared for surprises.
- 3) For both Quals/DAP, **answer all parts of the question!** I cannot say this enough times. Even if you write the most brilliant answers, our ever-kind and merciful faculty will not hesitate to fail you if you write an incomplete response. The mind is strange. I remember reading the instructions for the article critique at least 10 times. I had read the exact same instructions on the examples of article critiques that we had received in 299. And yet, why did I discover at 11:30 PM on Sunday night that I had written a 10 page article critique that somehow totally forgot to include a blueprint for future research?! Yes, answer all parts of the question.
- 4) Quals: Talk with your advisor to make sure you're on the same page for your "special" question. I've heard horror stories of people getting their exams, scanning the list of special questions, and not seeing any that directly related to their research (in their minds at least!). I've heard stories of people who actually went to their advisors, demanded new questions, and got 'em. You do not want to rely on this option as a fall back strategy! Unless you have a telepathic connection with your advisor, and even if you do (goodness), **it can't hurt to have a clear, explicit conversation about your question.** Every advisor-advisee relationship is different, but everyone appreciates clear communication.
- 5) Both exams: Stock up on all of your favorite food before exam weekend. Set up a nice post-exam reward for yourself that you can think of during the bleak hours of Saturday night when you're trapped at home writing. Enjoy your entitled post-exam slump (just don't let it last too long) and remember: **all you have to do is pass!**

NEW!!! ASK THE BILLY GOAT... HE'LL CHEW ON YOUR QUESTION!



Dear Billy Goat:

Q: How should I go about asking faculty to serve on my committee?

A: This is always a tough question, tough as an old shoe (mmmm...an old shoe, the Billy Goat would love to chew on one of those right now).

I assume you are referring to your Doctoral Committee, which is "formed subsequent to the successful completion of the written qualifying examination." *HEOC Student Handbook*, Page 15, <http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/~heoc/Handbook2005.pdf>. "For the Ph.D. degree, the committee consists of three members from the Department of Education and one member from a department other than Education. The committee, nominated by the Department of Education and appointed by the Dean of the Graduate Division, conducts all the Oral Examinations for the dissertation study." (*Handbook*, 15). Please review the Handbook for its useful rundown of committee formation issues. In brief summary of the points most pertinent to your question:

1. You should be thinking about whom to ask to be on your committee during your coursework; during this long and arduous journey, you should be asking professors along the way to serve on the dissertation committee.
2. It is important who you choose as the chair. Per the *Handbook*, "the dissertation chair is crucial because s/he will set the tone and direction for the rest of the dissertation process. Furthermore, the chair is the one committee member the student meets with most often for shaping and structuring the study. Finally, the

dissertation chair also becomes the student's advocate during the preliminary and final orals." (15). Billy Goat Aside: Think Dante and Virgil in the *Inferno*.

3. Also according to the *Handbook*, "the chair does not have to be the student's academic advisor", although this is common. (15). Something to chew on with your advisor, undoubtedly.

4. The Handbook contains the rules, 1-9, pertaining to committee membership. PLEASE consult them, and also refer questions to Bridget Montoya, Office of Student Services, who has forgotten more than the Billy Goat could ever know regarding these important issues. For forms, filing deadlines, and other crucial information, also please visit the site for the UCLA Graduate Division. <http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/>

The University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education in 2001 convened a panel on "How to Choose Your Dissertation Topic and Advisor." http://www.gse.upenn.edu/student_life/advisor.pdf This panel recommended in part:

- Get in a dissertation support group even before forming a committee or starting a proposal. The process is lonely and we don't want any Eleanor Rigbys wasting away on the fourth floor of the Young Research Library;
- Pick a committee that works well as a team, shares your research interests, and is enthusiastic about them;
- Consider your prospective committee members' schedules: if all four are going on sabbatical simultaneously, for example, this could seriously hamstring your dissertating. Also, summers are rough times to coordinate dissertation meetings, defenses, and the like. **Professors have lives.** Hopefully, come summertime, they're white-water rafting somewhere or on a national karaoke tour. Respect this, sayeth the Billy Goat.

The Chronicle of Higher Education's graduate student forum for dissertators:

<http://chronicle.com/forums/index.php/topic,32874.0.html> is a nice source of support and information as well.

Master's Thesis Committee: The Billy Goat wrote a master's thesis, *The History of Higher Education in the Western United States*, for his HEOC graduation requirement back in his greener grass days (mmmm...chewy, chewy fresh grass...). Consider, master's students, doing this. Assembling a committee is a more stripped down affair, and it is good practice for eventually doing a dissertation. The Handbook addresses these Master's issues at the bottom of page 14.

Hey you!

Are you attending the HEOC Spring Social?

Well...you should. The end.

Stuff You Don't Have Time to Read/Watch

For this edition of "Stuff You Don't Have Time to Read/Watch," I decided to address musicals! <enter stage right, jazz hands!> Yes, higher ed has even found its way to the land where people spontaneously burst into song.

First I finally saw *Wicked*, which is continuing its path to world domination by setting up shop at the Pantages. An alternative telling of *the Wizard of Oz*, *Wicked* is the other story of the Wicked Witch of the West, aka Elphaba. In this tale, the WWW is not an evil scary cackler who hates dogs and girls from Kansas, but a misunderstood animal rights activist. And where did she come to consciousness in her decision to fight tha Man (or wizard)? COLLEGE! Yes, at Shiz University she is exposed to the injustices mounted against the talking animal community and ends up conducting undergrad research with her goat-professor. She also enters into a cross-color (she is green, after all) friendship with her roomie Glinda. Talk about cognitive dissonance...

During a stop in New York, I also had the pleasure of seeing a fairly new off-Broadway musical, *In the Heights*. Portraying life in the predominantly Latino community of Washington Heights, ITH is special because it not only directly addresses a highly relevant higher ed issue (one of the characters, Nina, makes it to Stanford against the odds but wants to come back home because her parents can't afford the tuition), but is also the literal product of the college experience of its creator and main character, Lin-Manuel Miranda. Miranda was raised in Washington Heights but never appreciated or recognized his identity as a Latino until surprise, college (Wesleyan). Many of us experience an ethnic awakening during college and channel our newfound knowledge and identity into taking some Ethnic Studies classes, writing an op-ed or two, whatever. Miranda decided to...spontaneously burst into song...and write the first rendition of ITH. After a couple of years it got some big investors and the product is pretty great--catchy songs, solid dancing, Broadway meets hip-hop, salsa, and immigrants! Okay some parts are a little cheesy, truth be told. One critique of the musical is that it shows a overly positive, sunny face of a community where many find it hard to make ends meet, but Miranda counters that he was tired of seeing only negative depictions of low-income communities. Yes, it's cultural wealth in action, set to music! If you make it to New York anytime soon, I recommend seeing it before it moves to Broadway and the ticket prices double. Info and sound clips at <http://www.myspace.com/intheheightsthemusical>

Okay...keep scrolling...one more page...

The following message was "accidentally" forwarded to one of the Connection editors...

DEAR MIKE KNOX,



WILL YOU APPEAR ON OUR NEXT ALBUM? I DO ADMIRE YOU OH SO VERY MUCH.

LUV 4-EVA,

THE HEOC KIDZ (aka, the HEOKidz)

**GOOD LUCK ON EXAMS!
STAY CALM!
KEEP ON TRUCKING...**

The HEOC Connection would like to thank all of those who took the time to write for us during the year. We hope that you enjoyed the procrastination as much as we did...