

ATTENTION Physics and Astronomy Graduates

The Department of Physics and Astronomy has compiled a list of class notes of its graduates. More than 60 percent of the 377 physics and astronomy graduates are listed. While not totally representative, the list shows what physics graduates do. View the department's class notes on the Web at

<http://physastro.sonoma.edu/people/graduates/GradsAchievements.html>

CLASSNOTES

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the University of San Diego, Calif. She has also been appointed the graduate assistant for student orientation programs at the same university. Donahue is planning the main fall orientation and will be solely in charge of the spring orientation for transfer and new students.

In Memoriam

William O. Cord, professor emeritus of Spanish. Died July 16, 2005. Served on the SSU faculty from 1963-1989 and, in an era when it was a faculty-elected position, as chair of the Division of Arts and Humanities. Faculty colleagues will remember him for his devotion to mod-

ern languages and culture and for his diligent, principled, insightful work during the Department of Modern Languages' formative years. Cord is credited with building the solid foundation upon which the department's current success stands, creating a legacy for a new generation of SSU faculty.

PERSPECTIVE

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to graduate from high school between the years of 2002 and 2018. Millennials were born into and grew up in a technological age and accept multitechnologies and multiliteracies with unstudied ease. By the time the eldest of the millennials reached middle school, digitally enhanced movie and TV commercial action, the World Wide Web, self-serve-pay-at-the-pump gas stations and ATMs were common aspects of everyday life.

What, then, is the impact of the new literacies and the new technologies on teachers? Let's look at just one new literacy — instant messaging, or IM. The title of this article is in part IM: ruok2dA? (Are you okay today?). This language is also used for regular text messaging and in chat rooms. IM language combines letter and numerical representations of sounds in a phonetic representation of words and phrases. It strips written language of everything unnecessary — punctuation, traditional use of capitals, etc. See the IM chat between swolf and paw that appears on page 3 for a fictitious chat using some IM words and phrases.

Anyone with a computer or cell phone linked to the Internet can do it. Kids sign up to an IM network through AOL, Yahoo, Microsoft and others. Instant messages are sent real-time, so response is immediate. Most of the time, kids do IM in groups and often while they're checking e-mail. The IM text shows up on the screen with each user's screen name, and often in a differ-

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Workshop
and Alumni
Reception
combines a
fun learning
experience
with the
opportunity

to social-
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alumni and friends

in the magnificent setting of St. Francis Winery. Since our sense of smell informs our sensation of taste, this workshop will teach us how to identify wines that have been infused with aromas commonly found in wine.

Hosted on the St. Francis Winery terrace overlooking majestic Hood

WORKSHOP AND ALUMNI RECEPTION
ST. FRANCIS WINERY & VINEYARDS
MAY 25



ST. FRANCIS
WINERY & VINEYARDS

d'oeuvres, and mellow
music.

The event will be held Thursday, May 25 between 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Reservations are required.

Cost is \$35 per person. Please call (707) 664.2426 or e-mail alumni.office@sonoma.edu. For information about St. Francis Winery &

Vineyards, please visit

<http://www.stfranciswine.com>

Mountain and the beautiful vineyards, the workshop and reception offers a great way to learn more about wine while enjoying great company, delicious hors

ent color. Usually a cell phone icon denotes those who are using a mobile device indicating that they might be slightly slower writing their messages. Users set up buddy or friend lists that allow them to see who is logged on and ready to chat.

Some linguists believe that the language of IM is revolutionary and marks a permanent change to English. Others note that not only the language but the traditions of instant messaging are changing the culture. David Silver, University of Washington professor of communications, says that kids are altering the language to suit the technology and notes that the strategic use of the phrase POS — parent over shoulder — is nothing short of brilliant. "Say a teen is supposed to be doing homework, but of course is instant messaging. A parent comes up and the kid quickly types 'POS' and sends it out. Suddenly everyone is talking about math homework."

Many teachers worry that the alternative language of IM will seep into the classroom and formal writing assignments; however, kids say that IM language is a "kid-to-kid" thing, thus indicating their understanding of code switching.

So, today, our children and grandchildren and our students contend with a technological world that is dizzyingly complex. And if we, their teachers, are going to prepare them for and support their efforts in the midst of this complexity, if we are going to help them traverse old and new technologies and multiple literacies, we must heed Paulo Friere's maxim: "Teach students to read the word and read the world." ♦