

VISION

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD ONE MIND AT A TIME

HOLY NAMES UNIVERSITY, A CENTER OF RIGOROUS TEACHING AND

SCHOLARSHIP IN THE CATHOLIC INTELLECTUAL TRADITION, IS: ROOTED

IN THE CHARISM OF THE SISTERS OF THE HOLY NAMES OF JESUS AND MARY

AND COMMITTED TO SOCIAL JUSTICE; A STUDENT-FOCUSED COMMUNITY

DEVELOPING CRITICAL THINKERS AND TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERS; A

MODEL OF DIVERSITY PROMOTING CULTURAL COMPETENCY; A RESOURCE

FOR STUDY AND IMPACT ON URBAN ISSUES, PARTICULARLY IN OAKLAND



HOLY NAMES UNIVERSITY Annual Report 2006 – 2007



Transforming the World...

MISSION

Holy Names University, an academic community committed to the full development of each student, offers a liberal education rooted in the Catholic tradition, empowering a diverse student body for leadership and service in a diverse world.



TRANSFORMING
through
ACADEMICS

HNU stands committed to the recruitment of quality faculty and the development of cutting-edge curricula to complement its liberal arts focus, enabling its diverse student body to evolve into transformational leaders in today's complex world.

Helen Xu



Dr. Helen Xu explains the hypothesis test on the slope of the regression timeline

Helen Xu, who joined the HNU faculty as an assistant professor of finance in the fall of 2007, has always had finance on her mind, even as a child growing up in China. “I’ve been interested in finance since I was very young,” she recalls. “Basically, I was good in math and liked studying economics and working with financial problems. Finance is really important, both for the individual and for governments, and economics is an important tool in solving practical issues in government.”

With her aptitude in math and a burning desire to learn about the inner workings of the monetary world, Xu gained admission to Dongbei University of Finance and Economics in Dalian in China’s Liaoning Province, earning the equivalent of a BA in economics. She then went on to Jinan University in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, earning a master’s in economics. “I then realized that I needed to come to the United States to continue my studies if I wanted to advance my knowledge in these areas. In China, finance is a new area,” Xu explains. “Finance has a long history in the U.S. — some 200 to 300 years. All the financial instruments began here: bonds, stocks, futures. Most financial derivatives began in the United States; it was the pioneer.”

In 2002, leaving behind her parents and two older siblings, Xu arrived in the mid-size town of Denton in Northern Texas to enter the doctorate program at the University of North Texas. She was 29. She recalls her days in Texas with fondness. “I was immediately struck by how clean everything was, and how blue the sky was. There wasn’t very much pollution. It was so green. And there were a lot less people on the streets than in China. That was because everyone in Denton was in cars.

She continues, “UNT was a very exciting experience for me. The material was much more current than in China, the professors had much more up-to-date knowledge, and there were more research materials so I could gather data more easily. Plus there was more interaction with the professors than I had in China. I was able to get wonderful guidance from the chair when doing my dissertation.”

As much as Xu enjoyed the University of North Texas, she knew she would have to leave. Her goal, upon receiving her doctorate in finance in the spring of 2007, was to teach at a small, private university with small class sizes. “At UNT, the classes had over 100 students. I wanted to be able to interact with my students and have time for projects,” she says. “Here at HNU, there are 15 students in a class. It’s easier for me to communicate with my students, and there is time for projects that get them more excited about the subject matter and allow them to apply what they’re learning to real-world problems. For instance, I have them look at a company they have an interest in and ask questions such as ‘Is it over-valued or under-valued?’.”

In the Fall 2007 semester, Xu taught Business Finance and Business Statistics classes; in the spring, she will add Financial Management to the courses she teaches. “I’m finding HNU a rewarding place to teach. The students, most of whom are very young, are very energetic and very active participants in class,” she observes. “Enrollments in the Department of Business have been increasing, so I’m looking forward to developing more classes and making a bigger contribution. This is a wonderful opportunity for me.”

Xu shares her enthusiasm for finance beyond the classroom. She is also a faculty advisor for the Business Club. She elaborates, “The Club meets every two weeks for an hour and we discuss financial issues, for instance, how to increase one’s credit score. It’s a lot of fun. We discuss things that are more closely related to the students’ everyday lives. I show them how to use a financial calculator when buying a car. We use simulation games for making stock trades. The Business Club membership is growing and I want to help it grow more.”

Xu and her husband, Eric Lin, who is also a professor of finance, are enjoying both the physical and social climate of the Bay Area, especially the wealth of cultural activities and the large Chinese community. “Some of the Chinese restaurants here in the Bay Area have top chefs from China working in their kitchen,” she observes. One taste she has acquired since coming to the U.S. is a love of baseball. Her husband got her interested in the sport and she is now a diehard New York Yankees fan.

Her first love, though, remains teaching the basics of finance to young, receptive minds. When asked what her research focus is, she replies, “Commodity derivatives transactions.” When asked to put that in layman’s terms, she answers, “Basically, cooperative risk management activities.” Umm, o.k. It’s a good bet that the students of this dedicated, enthusiastic professor of finance know exactly what she’s talking about. ■



Bob and Lorena '51 Thorup

Lorena and Bob Thorup wanted to support students planning to become teachers, as well as promote the field of education. Bob had been an elementary principal in Oakland for nearly 30 years, the last 10 years at E. Morris Cox School at 98th and MacArthur. At Cox, he worked closely with Sister Eileen Marie Cronin of the Raskob Institute to develop a program of Early Reading Development. He also had a connection with Holy Names University (then College) because many of HNU's credential students did their practice teaching at his school.

Lorena '51Thorup, has been an active HNU alum over the years. She was the second editor of the alumni publication, a job she held for 10 years, and for some 40 years, she wrote the Class Notes for the publication. After graduating in 1951, Lorena returned for a secondary credential, then earned an MA in 1971 while teaching school. In 1966, Lorena established the Vernon E. Louis Scholarship in memory of her first husband.

Bob knows firsthand the difficulty of putting oneself through college. He attended San Jose State College during the Depression and, at one point, had to drop out of school for a year to earn enough money to continue and graduate. Remembering those days, Bob and Lorena hope to assist some HNU students to complete their studies and give back to their communities through the gift of education, with some perhaps teaching in Oakland, the native city of both Lorena and Bob.

After their first meeting with Sister Carol during which the scholarship particulars were agreed upon, Lorena and Bob returned to Holy Names University and presented an initial gift of stock as the corpus for the scholarship to Dav Cvitkovic, Vice President for Institutional Advancement. Several months later, a second gift of stock was added; the first scholarship will be awarded to the Thorup Scholar in Fall 2008. Holy Names is profoundly grateful to Lorena and Bob, two more generous individuals helping Holy Names University continue the legacy of education to our students and to those they will teach. ■

Transforming Teaching

About the Bob and Lorena '51 Thorup Scholarship

Bob and Lorena hope to assist some HNU students to complete their studies and give back to their communities through the gift of education, with some perhaps teaching in Oakland, the native city of both Lorena and Bob.

Steven Borg

Steven Borg, Class of 1986 (International Business, International Relations, History), has worked for the past 25 years in the banking industry and is currently a senior vice president and corporate marketing director of California Bank & Trust, specializing in cross-cultural communications/marketing. An active volunteer who serves on such non-profit boards as The Helping Hands Program, he and his wife, Betsy '86, are the parents of two small children. He credits HNU, in no uncertain terms, for providing him with the "four key success factors" that have helped him build his career. "Holy Names taught me the importance of critical thinking; it prepared me to be a good communicator; it gave me a sense of responsibility – both socially and ethically; and it gave me a global perspective, in part because of my major and in part because of HNU's diverse student body." Having been the hiring authority in many instances over the years, Steven is painfully aware of how impossible it is to try to teach someone, in the fast pace of a workplace environment, how to think critically, how to communicate, and how to think ethically. "[All of those abilities] are the basis of the whole liberal arts tradition; people need more than technical skills," Steven observes, forever grateful that HNU prepared him to excel in every way in today's global marketplace.



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(\$100 to \$249)

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Jean Ammons '00
Barbara Anderson
David and Mary Grant Anderson '64
Carl and Kay Andre '96
William and Maria Armanino-
Lawbaugh '63
Arturo and Mary Escobar Baca '61
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Bacigalupi '53
John and Louise Roggero Baczuk '67
Patricia Balue '47

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 Evelyn Miché '70
 Anita Berg Miles '79
 Shiela Curtis Millhollon '58
 Erlinda Morgia Miraflor '65
 Sandra Judicini Miraglia '63
 Kathleen Morrissey Mirch '53
 Sandra Mitchell '77
 Margaret Molina-Hinkley '05
 Beatrice Auza Moore '64
 Joan Jordan Moore '64
 Margaret Franks Moore '73
 Pat and Kate Moreira
 Noreen Morgan '93
 Joan and James Moura
 Jeanne Mulgrew '59
 Carol Lochemes Mullane '66
 Mildred Simon Muller '54
 Eileen Mulligan
 Nancy Kirby Munton '58
 Jo-Ann Murdach '89
 Diane Hastings Murphy '55
 Mary Ann Murphy '76
 Patricia Dooley Murphy '45
 Diana Murray '79
 Marguerite Evans Musser '81
 Frances Nachtsheim '55
 Judy Nadrowski '74
 Catherine Nagler '05
 Kazuo '75 and Anne Gosen
 Nakai '76

Mary Ann Butler Neal '95
 Helen Nelson '80
 Patricia Crowley Nelson '99
 Marjorie Newton '68
 Adriana Overdeest Nieman '70
 Dianne Nixon '67
 Suellen Newton Noland '81
 Judith Norris
 Megan Norwood '01
 Audrey O'Hare O'Brien '43
 Martha Doyle O'Brien '55
 Marian Reardon O'Connell '50
 Charles and Marilyn O'Connor
 Nicholas O'Donnell '74
 Judy Read O'Hara '42
 Barbara Borba O'Neill '53
 Catherine Ogle
 Kathleen Oliver '61
 Elena Olkhovskaya
 Nancy Olsen '72
 Germaine Salarno Orlando '54
 Nancy Kaehms Osterlind '73
 Suzanne Cunningham Oswald '81
 Georgia Otterson
 Dolores Padilla '95
 Roberta Palumbo '68
 Jeanne Pascal
 Frances Pedersen '70
 Joyce Palm Pedersen '91
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 Harriet Mueller Pennekamp '62
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 Margaret McManus Pettit '55
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 Geraldine Brusher Poels '43
 Betty Pofel
 Barbara Polk '82
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 Bonnie Porter
 LaJoyce Porter
 Mary Maguire Pult '67
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 Joyce Ramacciotti Quinn '64
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 Pauline Sanger '79
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 Lucille Almeida Saumell '43
 Margaret Sawyer '81
 Mary Richelli Scalvini '40
 Susan Schnieders '68
 Diane Macchitelli Schubert '59
 Victoria and David Schumb
 Maureen Sheridan Scott '65
 Jeanine Seeds '66
 William and Annette Sellman
 Carol Seufferer '82
 Gloria Cain Seward '82

Nga Do

Nga Do, Class of 1996 (philosophy), has lived a life marked by tragic circumstances and triumph. In 1988, she and her family joined the legions of “boat people” fleeing Vietnam for the refugee camps of Thailand. The family arrived in California in 1990, and 14-year-old Nga, the youngest of 10 children and speaking not a word of English, was told that she would be the first member of the family ever to go to college. Eight years later, Nga graduated from HNU, magna cum laude, with a BA in philosophy and two minors, math and computer science. “At HNU, I found my freedom and my independence,” she relates. “It basically gave me the foundation of who I became. Without Holy Names, I don’t think I could be the person I am today. The humanistic program made me a well-rounded person with a holistic view. I found I wanted to help people and my brilliant professors showed me how to do it. To start, I switched my major from math to philosophy.” In 2003, Nga received a prestigious Thomas Pickering Graduate Foreign Affairs Fellowship from the U.S. State Department and today works as a foreign service officer and vice consul at the American consulate in Monterrey, Mexico. “In the future,” she says, “my goal is to work with organizations whose vision is to curb poverty through creative projects and implement economically sustainable, effective solutions.”

