

Business program offers tutoring

■ **BEST:** The team was set up by Robert and Lois Braddock to help business students with their studies

By Carl Yeh
Freelance Editor

For business school undergraduates, sometimes the BEST help they can get for their studies comes in the form of the Braddock Education Success Team.

Located in 271 Gilbert, BEST offers free tutoring for business undergraduates in subjects such as accounting, finance, management, marketing and writing.

Open 1 to 8 p.m., Monday to Thursday, 1 to 8 p.m., BEST is "specifically designed to help business students," program coordinator Randy Nelson said.

Keita Suzuki, a senior majoring in business management, uses BEST to get help with his writing.

"It's been very helpful to me," said Suzuki, a Japanese student who has lived in the United States for 5 years. "It helps you get a good grade."

"It helps the foreign students with the grammar, and it helps if you just want somebody to do some proofreading," said Doug Hall, a first year MBA student from Seattle and a BEST tutor.

BEST was founded and financially supported by Robert and Lois Braddock, who both graduated from the University in 1937.

"From the beginning, Robert Braddock wanted to do something for the College of Business," said Carole Daly, assistant dean for external affairs and development at the College of Business. "Braddock had initially done athletic scholarships, but he wanted to help undergraduate students in general."

"He came up with the idea to pay MBA and business graduate students to tutor undergrads. The result was a win-win situation where MBA and graduate students earn money and undergrads get the benefit of 'expert' help," Braddock said. "It's something we believe is very unique where any business student can get help and it's free."

Many business students use BEST already, but the tutors are not always busy.

"An average of 20 to 40 people come in here, depending on which week [it is] during the term," Nelson said. "We're looking for more ways to get people in."

"When we started out, we just tutored," he continued. However, to attract more students, BEST began to offer other services such as seminars, internship information and mentorship. Students can bring in their business ideas and BEST tutors and mentors will help them evaluate those ideas as well as give advice.

"We're here to provide academic support for our students, but we're also moving toward professional support," Nelson said. "We're trying to focus entirely on the business undergrad."

Because of BEST's new vision, the Braddock foundation plans on giving the program more funds. Last year the program received \$55,000. This year BEST will receive nearly \$75,000.

The extra money will help pay for "a part-time staff person who will bring continuity to the program," Daly said.

Braddock passed away in 1995, but his program lives on to help University business students.

"It really is all about support in every way possible," Nelson said.

Measure 50 would offer less tax relief for voters

■ **VOTE:** A new report says that Measure 50 does not cut property taxes as much as Measure 47

By Charles E. Beggs
The Associated Press

SALEM — The property tax-cut measure on Tuesday's ballot would not reduce taxes as much as the law it would revise, according to a new state report.

Voters in most areas of the state would get less property tax relief under Measure 50 than under Measure 47, the tax limit passed by voters in November, the Legislative Revenue Office study concludes.

A leader of the opposition to Measure 50 said Wednesday the report confirms his view that the proposal amounts to a tax increase.

"They're asking people to exchange a constitutional guarantee for a legislative promise," said Don McIntire, an anti-tax activist from Gresham who sponsored a property tax limit passed by voters in 1990.

Bill Sizemore, author of Measure 47 and supporter of Measure 50, said voters should not focus on immediate tax savings.

He said both measures contain the same key provision limiting tax increases to 3 percent a year. Sizemore has endorsed Measure 50 on grounds it would clear up legal problems that might jeopardize Measure 47.

Measure 50 was drawn up by the Legislature after some lawmakers warned that the Measure 47 contained so many technical flaws that it could be thrown out by the courts.

The new state report said Measure 50 would reduce property taxes statewide in the 1997-98 fiscal year by 12.6 percent, compared with an average 17.5 percent reduction under Measure 47.

"They're asking people to exchange a constitutional guarantee for a legislative promise"

Don McIntire
Anti-tax advocate

The state's new analysis indicates that about two dozen cities would get a bigger tax break under Measure 50, and a few cities, such as West Linn, would see their taxes increase under Measure 50.

Figures used at the time the Legislature was adopting Measure 50 showed it would cut property taxes by about \$800 million statewide compared with a reduction of about \$1 billion under Measure 47.

The new numbers show a wide difference around the state.

Portland would get an average 8 percent cut with Measure 50, compared with a 14 percent cut with Measure 47. The main difference is that Measure 50 exempts the city's police and firefighter pension levy from the limits.

A Portland taxpayer who paid \$2,000 last fall would save \$160 this year with Measure 50 and \$280 with Measure 47.

Jim Scherzinger, the Legislature's top revenue officer, advised that the calculations rely on many assumptions including how lawmakers, and perhaps the courts, might implement either measure.

The tax-change percentages in the study are averages, and homeowners probably would get more relief than the average for either measure because residential property values have risen faster than commercial and industrial values, Scherzinger said.

Number of minorities admitted to UC Boalt law school declines

■ **ADMISSIONS:** Some officials believe the end of affirmative action led to the school's dropping numbers

By Michelle Locke
The Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. — The number of blacks admitted to the University of California's Boalt Hall law school tumbled 81 percent in the first year without affirmative action, and Hispanic admissions fell 50 percent.

Law school Dean Herma Hill Kay called the plunging totals "precisely what we feared would result from the elimination of affirmative action."

Foes of racial preferences saw the figures released Wednesday in a different light.

"These numbers really show

the horrendous magnitude of the preferences that we've been giving in the UC system," said Jennifer Nelson of the American Civil Rights Institute, founded by UC Regent Ward Connerly. Connerly wrote the new UC policy eliminating race and gender as factors in admissions.

The Board of Regents, the governing body for the UC system's nine campuses and 167,000 students, adopted the policy in 1995, and it took effect first with graduate students entering in the fall of 1997. Undergraduates will be admitted under the new, race-neutral policies next year.

Other major UC graduate schools have yet to release their admissions figures.

The Boalt dean said that instead of race, the law school took into account any obstacles appli-

cants had to overcome or any disadvantages they faced. The law school has about 940 students.

Boalt had announced earlier that minorities made up 36 percent of this year's applicants, vs. 39 percent the previous year.

In all, 14 black students were admitted for fall 1997 at Boalt. That compared with 75 students last year. The number of Hispanics admitted decreased from 78 to 39.

Meanwhile, the number of Asians, who were not granted preferences under the old system, increased about 18 percent, from 126 to 149. The number of white students admitted rose from 467 to 538, up about 15 percent.

Those numbers are for admissions only. About 270 students are expected to actually enroll, and the numbers for minorities could change depending on who

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Jennifer Nelson
American Civil Rights Institute

accepts.

Boalt second-year student Elizabeth Landsberg, who is white, called the changes "an incredible loss."

"It shows the impact of what the regents have done and it shows that basically what they've done is going to lead to the resegregation of schools," she said.

Fellow second-year student Marvin Peguese said: "I have been

in classes where I'm ... one of two, three, four African-Americans, and there'll be case law or policy that has obvious racial implications and if we don't raise it, no one will talk about it."

Landsberg and other Boalt students last week presented a report suggesting that Boalt do more recruiting and rely less on LSAT scores, the exam students take to enter law school.

The American Civil Rights Institute has argued that schools, students and parents simply need to work harder.

The admissions figures are "a wake-up call that some segments of our population in California are not as competitive as we would like them to be when we judge on merit," Nelson said. "It says that we have work to do with African-American and Hispanic populations in this state."

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