

**UH Law Center/UH Writing Center Partnership:
Writing Diagnostic Assessment, Project 2
Fall 2008**

The readings below will be used for the take-home writing assessment (Project 2) you will complete following the timed assessment.

**1. Rocky Mountain Collegian, April 28, 2004 , Joanna Larez,
*Colorado State U. officials warn students may commit unintended plagiarism***

Plagiarism is usually brought up the first day of class as instructors go over the syllabus. As the semester rolls by, and students are being pulled in many different directions, they may not always be thinking about plagiarism as they are writing a paper, which can lead to unintentional plagiarism.

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Jessica Kerrigan, a sophomore sociology major, thinks of copy and paste as a form of plagiarism. She defined plagiarism with a single word: "cheating," and she said she believes that copy and paste plagiarism is intentional.

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[T]he Writing Center stresses certain concepts regarding plagiarism. [The assistant director] tells students that concepts need to be attributed to the person who came up with the idea, because plagiarism goes beyond exact copying. He also asks students to think about their readers, and if the readers would like to do similar research, they might like to use similar sources.

"If you're in question, be very careful," Fallon said. "Give proper credit where credit is due."

Unintentional plagiarism can lead to the same consequences as intentional plagiarism, said Anne Hudgens, director of campus life. She said consequences include a zero for the assignment, a reduced grade in the class or an F in the class. Students who plagiarize can also face suspension or expulsion from the university, Hudgens said.

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"Some students think cheating is a victimless crime," Hudgens said. "They think it is not hurting anybody."

She said cheating hurts the student's fellow classmates who did the work, the institution, faculty members and sometimes the instructor's feelings. Cheating can also hurt the reputation of the university and the instructor of the course.

"Reputation is everything in the academic community," Hudgens said.

**2. The Burlington Free Press (Burlington, VT), April 24, 2004, Jill Fahy, Staff
*Colleges fight back against Net plagiarism***

Need to write a college admissions essay or a term paper but not interested in composing it yourself?

No problem. A simple Internet search will yield dozens of sites, such as Genius Papers, Cheat House.com, or Evil House of Cheat, created to help students 'download their workload,' as another site boasts.

There is often a high price to be paid other than the per-page cost for acquiring these pre-written literary gems. Academicians who are wary of students' temptation to cheat are using the same Internet searches to detect plagiarized work.

'If I'm reading a paper and I have any questions about whether a student composed a sentence, I put it in Google,' said Melanie Gustafson, an associate history professor at the University of Vermont.

Gustafson's hunches often prove right. She recently doubted the authenticity of a student's paper. After inserting a sentence from the paper into the Google search engine, she pulled up an entire research paper with the exact same wording, written by someone else.

'It's something that has become so cultural this idea of appropriating other people's work and calling it their own,' Gustafson said. 'In academia that's stealing, and you don't steal.'

Local colleges and universities, acknowledging that the Internet has made plagiarism easier than ever, have taken new tacks to reinforce campus policies against students who take others' words for their own use.

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A few plagiarism cases are dealt with every year, officials for Middlebury College, UVM and St. Michael's College said. 'I think we're not in any different position than other institutions, but as Internet use increases, numbers have gone up,' said John Bramley, UVM's senior vice president and provost.

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.... In a survey of 30,000 undergraduates at 34 colleges, 37 percent admitted committing cut-and-paste plagiarism using the Internet, up from 10 percent in 1999, The Associated Press reported this month, citing the survey by Don McCabe, founder of the Center for Academic Integrity and a Rutgers University professor.

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Students plagiarize for a number of reasons.

'Some students may procrastinate,' said Marichal Gentry, Middlebury College acting dean of student affairs. 'They wait until the last minute and may feel pressured to get it done.' At Middlebury, cases are spotted mostly at the end of a term, when students face multiple tests and term papers, Gentry said.

As Gustafson points out, plagiarism isn't just a student-driven problem.

Lauded historians Doris Kearns Goodwin and the late Stephen Ambrose were accused of borrowing on the work of others. Journalists Jayson Blair, Mike Barnicle and

Jack Kelley put their profession in the spotlight for fabricating stories. Central Connecticut State University President Richard L. Judd was accused this month of plagiarizing material for an op-ed newspaper column.

Youngblood agreed that plagiarism doesn't stop at the high school or college classroom.

"This isn't a UVM problem; it's not even a student problem," she said. "It's a national and international problem."

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With or without the aid of new technology, local colleges have made it clear through written policy that cheating is a serious, punishable infraction.

Across local campuses, penalties for plagiarism are imposed to fit the severity of the offense, professors said.

Sanctions range from being put on academic disciplinary probation, to failing the assignment or course, to suspension and expulsion.

3. Modesto Bee, April 19, 2004, Melainie Turner, Staff

Honesty is a Forgotten Policy: Plagiarism, Sense of Entitlement lead Cheating to New Lows on Campuses

Gone are the days of passing notes in class and writing equations on the back of your hand.

Today, students use cell phones with "text messaging" functions and handheld computers to hoodwink the system. And the Internet makes it easy to plagiarize.

The gadgets are convenient, but faculty and staff at California State University, Stanislaus, say cheaters are encouraged by a sense of entitlement.

Educators don't have data to point to, but they believe some students view college as little more than a transaction.

"You paid your reg fees, so therefore, you should get a good grade," said Brian Duggan, an instructional technology consultant on the Turlock campus.

Students these days feel they deserve a lot of things, like free music downloaded off the Internet, good grades and a diploma, they say.

When a student feels entitled to a degree, he or she will simply do the bare minimum to get by, and that includes plagiarism and cheating, said Amy Andres, a librarian at California State University, Stanislaus.

"It is increasingly rare to find a student who commits completely to the process and practice of earning a college degree," Andres wrote in an e-mail to The Bee. "Students now view their college education as a very long 'to do' list. They simply check off courses, exams and papers as they make their way to graduation."

With college costs rising, students look for ways to get the best deal for their money, said Chris Nagel, a philosophy lecturer at Stanislaus. "Cheating on a paper is maximizing your profit, as long as you don't get caught," he said.

RISE IN REPORTS OF DISHONESTY

Patty Perez, a 20-year-old student from Atwater, admits she sometimes takes shortcuts to save time. At times, she said, she's in a hurry or forgets to cite sources.

"I don't really think it's a big deal," she said. "But once again, there're people who put a lot of effort into it and want to get credit for it."

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[S]tudents consider information on the Web to be "free" or exempt from citation, and many accept what they find at face value.

"Many students have no grasp of the nature of scholarship or its value," she said.

One student, who admitted to falsifying data on the Scott Peterson juror survey and wishes to remain anonymous, said in an e-mail: "i just wanted to make one thing clear ... there was no cheating ... the information was falsified ... there's a difference."

Academic dishonesty comes in a variety of forms, Stacey Morgan-Foster, vice president of student affairs, said in response. "They're all wrong," she said, no matter how people try to rationalize them.

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McCabe, who has surveyed students about cheating for 14 years, said he's not surprised that reports of academic dishonesty are on the rise. "Many more schools are beginning to pay more attention to the issue," he said.

At the same time, he said, it seems the problem is getting worse. McCabe bases his observation on the numbers and on student attitudes.

He says students say, 'It's not a class that counts toward my major.' Or, 'I don't like the professor.'

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Students who are caught typically either flunk the paper or test, or the course. Consequences are up to individual instructors, and faculty members can choose to report incidents to Judicial Affairs -- for tracking purposes or for an investigation.

"I usually make it flunking the course, unless it was clearly accidental plagiarism," Peterson said.

"What I see, ironically, in my professional ethics classes," added Nagel, "are students taking whole papers from Web sites."

To help prevent blatant cheating, faculty members need to have a "fairly healthy sense of suspicion," including prohibiting access to cell phones and other such devices during tests, said Duggan of Stanislaus State.

Students can use phones to take pictures of questions and send them to someone who sends the answer back, he said. Word processing documents and Excel spread sheets can be stored on Palm Pilots, he added.

"You could program in key words, dates, equations," he said. "It's very ingenious."

Six University of Maryland students admitted cheating in January on an accounting exam by using their cell phones to receive text messages with the answers. Another six students were implicated in the case. . . .

In the future, faculty may have an even tougher time cracking down on high-tech cheating, what with Massachusetts Institute of Technology developing wearable computers that look like vests and fanny packs, Duggan said.

Some people at Stanislaus favor a universitywide system of dealing with cheating, such as requiring all faculty members to report incidents to Judicial Affairs to try to catch repeat offenders.

"The problem of academic dishonesty cannot be repaired with a patch kit," Andres said. "We need a systematic approach in order to stop this moving train of information misuse."

McCabe favors getting students to understand that there are certain rights and responsibilities that go along with being a member of a community.

"I'm a great believer that the best answer in the long run is promoting academic integrity rather than trying to detect and punish academic dishonesty," he said.

4. eWeek.com, April 6, 2004,

Software Sniffs Out Plagiarized Passages;

White-collar copycats may be less inclined to pilfer the well-chosen words of others now that software designed to ferret out plagiarism is moving out of academia and into the business world.

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Clearly, plagiarism is a growing problem. In a survey of 30,000 undergraduates at 34 colleges, 37 percent admitted committing cut-and-paste plagiarism using the Internet, up from 10 percent in 1999. Only 20 percent of their professors use plagiarism-detection tools, according to the survey by Rutgers University professor Don McCabe, founder of the Center for Academic Integrity.

Plagiarism detectors can be relatively cheap insurance against intellectual property sins, but many businesses and even educators remain reluctant to use them. Some fear lawsuits if they accuse someone of cheating. And deciding what amounts to actual plagiarism remains a judgment call that humans must make, creators of the software say.

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IParadigms software helped The Hartford Courant conclude last month that Central Connecticut State University's president, Richard Judd, had committed plagiarism in an

op-ed piece after an alert reader said it may have lifted sentences from The New York Times.

The Connecticut newspaper tried an Internet keyword search but without much success. IParadigm's software later showed that the opinion piece included not only material from the Times but also three other sources--at least 11 percent of it appeared to be unoriginal.

The criticism upended the respected university administrator's career--Judd, 66, announced on March 19 that he will retire July 1.

5. Daily Targum via University Wire, October 10, 2003, Haim Cohen
Internet plagiarism prevalent on campuses, study finds

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A nationwide study designed by Rutgers University professor Donald McCabe found Internet plagiarism is prevalent among 18,000 students, 2,600 faculty and 650 teaching assistants on 23 college campuses across the country. The study was conducted in conjunction with the Center for Academic Integrity of Duke University with funding from the John Templeton Foundation, according to a prepared statement.

McCabe, who teaches organization management, began the project 12 years ago when he began to look at the university's honor code as an undergraduate.

Survey participants said although plagiarism from written sources such as books and journals remains slightly more popular, Internet plagiarism is a growing concern on most campuses. The study's high percentages of plagiarism are only from using Internet sources.

In recent years, incidents of plagiarism have increased dramatically with the growing accessibility of the Internet. The study found an alarming 38 percent of undergraduate students have copied and pasted an article directly from the Internet into their own work in the past year. The rate for graduate students is not as high, but according to the study, one in four of them plagiarize from Internet sources to get their master's or doctorate degrees.

The study also stated 22 percent of undergraduates admitted to serious test cheating on the survey, with 39 percent of students having collaborated with others to take a later exam.

The main reason for students cheating was that they did not look at copying and pasting as a major infraction, according to the study.

"They are growing up with the Internet and see it as a powerful research tool versus a means of cheating," McCabe said. "Some feel if it's on the Internet, it's public information. Some just don't see 'cut and paste' forms of plagiarism as very consequential in light of everything they see going on in society, like Enron."

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Though some students consider copying an entire term paper cheating, they feel copying and pasting a paragraph is fine.

"With the advent of the Internet, it is so much easier for our generation to plagiarize," said Vincent Porta, a Rutgers College sophomore. "All you have to do is search for a couple articles online, copy and paste and you're done."

In addition, many students feel they will not get caught, and if they do, the penalty will not be severe. Some students think the worst penalty for plagiarism is receiving a failing grade for the paper. With so much information on the Internet, students feel it's almost impossible for them to get caught by copying paragraphs from many different sources and submitting them as their own.

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"It's just too convenient to plagiarize," said Tim Johnson, a University College senior. "And until that changes, people are going to keep doing it."

6. Chicago Tribune, October 1, 2003, Alison Neumer
Faking the grade; Cheating goes high-tech, puts schools to the test

Crafty college students are pushing the limits of technology into a new field--cheating. They text-message exam answers on their cell phones, program formulas into their graphing calculators and lift PhD-level analyses via a Google search.

Who needs to scribble the answers on your own palm when a friend can beam them to your Palm PDA instead?

Tools meant to enhance education, especially the Internet, are increasingly being used as creative instruments of cheating, college administrators say.

Sometimes students go to extremes: Last year, two Columbia University students were arrested for staging an elaborate scheme to cheat on the Graduate Record Exam and then sell the stolen test questions. Police found \$12,000 worth of high-tech devices, including walkie-talkies and a transmitter designed to intercept test questions.

In another high-profile case, University of Maryland officials in January caught six students using their cell phones to cheat on an accounting exam. The professor posted the exam answers online after the test started, and students communicated with friends outside the classroom who looked up the correct responses.

Although no major cases have surfaced locally, university administrators know that cheating goes on. At DePaul University, for example, a few cheating instances involved PDAs, while at the University of Illinois at Chicago a student used multiple devices to cheat. Both schools declined to give details.

Still, using the Internet to cheat is the most prevalent problem, educators say.

"The Internet has provided an irresistible new opportunity for cheating," said Donald McCabe, management professor at Rutgers University and organizer of a recent plagiarism study.

According to the research, 38 percent of undergraduate students admitted to one or more instances of "cut-and-paste" cheating in the last year, and 44 percent said such behavior is trivial or not really plagiarism.

Scores of Web sites, such as Cheater.com, Buypapers.com or Schoolsucks.com, offer immediate access to finished essays. During a quick search, essays on all the classic topics came up, as did a number of papers on topics such as "why cheating is immoral."

"Last year, three students out of my intro psych class bought the paper off the Internet and presented it to the class. The professor found it [online] and failed them," said Alma Hodzic, 19, a junior at Loyola University.

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Professors suspicious of a student's essay --it's too good, doesn't flow or doesn't answer the question--can combat technology with technology. Sometimes a simple Google search will produce the source, but more schools are subscribing to anti-cheating services such as Turnitin.com.

Papers submitted to Turnitin.com are checked against multiple databases: the Internet, electronic books and journals, as well as every other paper submitted to the service (about 10 million essays).

The company receives 15,000 student papers a day, of which roughly 30 percent are "less than original," said co-founder John Barrie.

Teachers need a service like Turnitin.com because the cheating problem is only getting worse, Barrie said.

"Our institutions are cranking out future leaders with shaky ethical foundations and poor critical analysis. Enron is a baby game compared to the problems we'll have in the future."

In one of Jessica Berger's classes at DePaul, a professor asked all the students to test their papers against the system before handing them in. The 18-year-old freshman says she welcomes services such as Turnitin.com that promote fairness.

"I don't cheat, and it's aggravating that some do, because if I'm going to work ... and they're going to get a better grade because they're copying, that's awful," Berger said.

But others are hesitant about detection services, which they say eradicates trust between the student and teacher, the foundation of good ethics

"Stopping cheating isn't what we want to do," Rutgers' McCabe said. "We want to promote integrity. Turnitin.com will reduce the level of cheating, but I'm not sure we've taught students anything."

For schools, a matter of trust

The University of Maryland is one of a number of schools that have responded to high-tech cheating by employing a so-called "modified honor code." Under a strict honor code, students are left to their own ethics, but under the "modified" code, exams are proctored by faculty.

Asking students to monitor and discipline their peers, as with a student-led honor council, is an effective method, too, said Gary Pavela, director of judicial programs at the University of Maryland.

"There are student leaders who really do want to make a difference, and if a school will ... give them real authority, they will be very strict about the issue of academic honesty," Pavela said.

Penalties meted out by student-faculty judicial panels can range from a reprimand to a yearlong probation to expulsion.

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- 38 percent of undergraduate students reported cut-and-paste plagiarism using the Internet.

- 40 percent of undergraduate students reported cut-and-paste plagiarism from written sources.

- Less than 5 percent of all undergraduate and graduate students indicated they turned in a paper using most or all of the text downloaded from a term paper mill or Web site.

- 36 percent of undergraduate students reported sharing information about a test already taken with a student about to take the same test. Many students felt this was trivial or not cheating at all.

- 4 percent of undergraduates indicated they had reported another student for cheating.

- First-year students report cheating at near the same rate as upperclassmen. This represents a change from previous surveys in which first-year students reported lower levels of cheating.

7. The Tampa Tribune (Florida), August 2, 2003, Brad Smith Online *Bonanza For Copycats Spurs Plagiarism Watchdogs*

It's so easy to cheat.

Just as millions of people download and burn music onto compact discs without paying the creators, you can steal thoughts or words off the Internet day or night and pass them off as your own.

And who cares?

That's how one-third of college students complete their work, estimates John Barrie of Turnitin.com, a leading antiplagiarism software house in Oakland, Calif. Universities from Oxford to West Point use his computer programs to catch and deter cheaters. He said this week that he sees plagiarism increasing exponentially.

"I think there's going to be a huge social impact in years to come if society doesn't put a stop to this," he said.

In Tampa, the latest question mark is Hillsborough County Circuit Judge Gregory Holder. He's accused of plagiarizing much of a 21-page paper for a 1998 seminar to get promoted in the Air Force Reserve.

Holder, 49, denies being a plagiarist. He has said the version of the paper being analyzed is not the one he wrote, and he implies he's a victim of revenge for being a whistleblower in courthouse scandals. An investigation continues after the Judicial Qualifications Commission found probable cause.

In some cases, part of the problem might be definition. As Harry Shaw writes in his "Concise Dictionary of Literary Terms," "Plagiarism, from a Latin word meaning 'kidnapping,' ranges from inept paraphrasing to outright theft."

One real-life definition can be found at hundreds of college paper mills, including Web sites such as Cheathouse.com and OPPapers.com. For a fee, students can buy term papers on just about any topic.

Although typically it takes a mere footnote to avoid trouble, students caught plagiarizing at the University of South Florida in Tampa get F grades on papers believed to be plagiarized. They could also face expulsion

Janet Moore, associate dean of undergraduate studies, mediates a dozen cases of alleged plagiarism each semester. USF is making antiplagiarism software available to professors to help stop it. But academic dishonesty is growing, she said, and ease is why.

Cutting and pasting off the Web is a cinch. And not all realize that it's plagiarism.

"There are so many practices that haven't been clearly defined yet," Moore said, citing the national debate over the ethics of free music downloading as one example.

"They see society going back and forth, and they wonder themselves. Students believe that what others do may be OK," she said. "It seems to be the norm. It's a mind-set, and they don't have clarity in it."

William Thomas, a business ethics consultant who heads the University of Tampa's Center for Ethics Business Advisory Board, is unsure whether plagiarism is a symptom of societal breakdown. But he acknowledges that today's college cheater could become tomorrow's corporate thief - leaders of future Enrons, WorldComs or ImClones.

"It does seem like it's snowballed a bit," Thomas said. "There's a new focus on it. A few cases made boards look at their corporations more closely. They may not have liked what they saw."

Appropriate Punishment?

To be sure, there are worse crimes than copying and not giving credit. But public concern about what amounts to a slide in morality appears to be rising.

A decline in ethics was ranked the second-worst problem facing the nation in one late 2000 Gallup poll, exceeded only by slipping educational standards, but deemed more urgent than crime, poverty, drugs, taxes, guns, pollution and racism.

Novelists, teachers, researchers, journalists, judges - anyone who traffics in words and ideas - could be a victim. But what's the punishment for the perpetrator?

Popular historians Doris Kearns Goodwin and the late Stephen Ambrose became minor pariahs in recent years when portions of some of their books were exposed as having been copied, or at least improperly footnoted. Both authors blamed the infractions on sloppy research by underlings.

Goodwin resigned from the board that awards Pulitzer Prizes. But both she and Ambrose, arguably, returned to public good graces. Their books still sell.

In journalism, the recent case of former New York Times reporter Jayson Blair caused a management shake-up at the nation's leading newspaper. It also rocked the industry as editors nationwide looked to tighten standards against plagiarism that could undermine credibility with readers.

A number of reporters at smaller papers were fired for plagiarism after the Blair scandal.

But for all the hand-wringing, Blair, who was accused of fabrication, not just plagiarism, is back in journalism. Esquire magazine has hired him to review a movie about another fabricator, former New Republic magazine writer Stephen Glass.

"Wringing Our Hands'

Bob Steele, a journalism values scholar at the Poynter Institute in St. Petersburg, considers the Blair hiring a mistake. But he's not so sure there's as much cheating and copying going on as some might fear.

"Certainly, we're paying a lot of attention to it," Steele said. "But to say it's on the increase, I don't know anyone who has proof."

Steele suggests plagiarism may be a hot-button issue - like athletes charged with crimes, or home run upticks in certain ballparks - that leads to false perception of a dramatic increase.

"When you have a case or cases that fall into the headlights, we think about it, and we talk more, and we may start wringing our hands and saying society has gone to hell in a handbasket," he said.

Not everyone agrees.

"It's naive for anybody to think that after a student lays a shaky foundation of ethics in high school, after they get a diploma, they suddenly become ethical people," said Barrie of Turnitin.com.

Terry Harrison, curriculum development coordinator for the Josephson Institute of Ethics in Los Angeles, said society increasingly sends the message that taking ethical shortcuts is easy and allowable. And those who opt to plagiarize or cheat see that getting caught isn't so bad.

"We're not all doomed, but we need to start instilling awareness of the ethical component of decision-making," Harrison said. "When it comes down to situations where nobody's going to know, that's where kids have to make choices."

8. St. Petersburg Times (Florida), July 28, 2003, Christopher Goffard

Holder: Missing documents prove innocence

What do you have to believe, to believe Gregory Holder?

In claiming someone fabricated a plagiarized research paper bearing his name, the Hillsborough Circuit judge implicitly posits a cunning, hateful and exceptionally lucky nemesis bent on ruining him.

He implies someone - acting alone or as the agent of a shadowy cabal - willing to sneak into his judicial office. Someone who stole papers to frame him. Someone who also stole the paper Holder could use to prove himself innocent. And someone who got several fluky breaks along the way.

By means still unclear, the state panel that oversees judges has acquired a copy of a research paper that Holder, an Air Force reservist, allegedly submitted for a 1998 course at MacDill Air Force Base. The paper, which examines Allied bombing during World War II and bears Holder's signature, was largely copied from another reservist's work.

Holder's defense: The paper with my name on it is not the paper I wrote.

That explanation leaves the case hanging in a bizarre - and perhaps indefinite - evidentiary stalemate.

"He is in a position now of virtually having to prove a negative," said David Weinstein, a lawyer for the 49-year-old judge. "This type of situation is why we have statutes of limitation, because it's difficult to defend yourself after years have elapsed from the alleged conduct."

The Judicial Qualifications Commission, which has brought charges against Holder, will not discuss the source of the allegation against him. The agency's investigation turns upon the authenticity of a single document - a research paper with Holder's name on it. It is not clear how that paper came to the JQC's attention.

Holder says he wrote a research paper in 1998 as a requirement for promotion to the rank of colonel in the Air Force reserves. He won the promotion, but now questions about the research paper are jeopardizing both his military and judicial careers.

According to Holder and his attorneys, in January 2002 someone anonymously slipped an envelope under the door of federal prosecutor Jeffrey Del Fuoco at the St. Petersburg office he used as a U.S. Army reservist. In the envelope were two research papers, one from 1998 with Holder's name on it, and the other a paper with numerous identical passages of text, dated 1996, and written by E. David Hoard, a Pentagon lawyer.

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The plagiarism charge has already cost Holder dearly. Though it does not change his pay grade, the Air Force has suspended him as a Judge Advocate General, a decision Holder is appealing.

Tampa attorney Joe Episcopo, a former Air Force reservist who knows Holder, called it "a very serious punishment."

"They took him off the military bench and took him out of JAG - that's the end of your (military) career," Episcopo said. "For somebody of that stature to have that happen, it's got to be a tremendous embarrassment. He was really gung-ho in the military."

It might have been the military's inability to authenticate the allegedly plagiarized report, Episcopo said, that prevented Holder from being court-martialed.

Holder's supporters point out that he has no shortage of enemies, including some who would love to see his reputation as a squeaky-clean Boy Scout tarnished. At the Hillsborough courthouse, he has been the catalyst for seismic changes.

He pushed for investigations against Judge Edward Ward, who was accused of sexual harassment, and Judge Robert Bonanno, who was discovered in Holder's office after hours. Both of those veteran judges later resigned.

So did the courthouse's most powerful and politically wired jurist, Chief Judge F. Dennis Alvarez, after a probe into his handling of the scandals. The ugly headlines also hobbled Alvarez's longtime dream of becoming Tampa mayor.

But why would Holder - the courthouse whistle-blower, the West Point man, the colonel - squander his career on a stolen paper?

Stuart Offenbach, a psychology professor at Purdue University who teaches on plagiarism issues, said it is not uncommon for high achievers to steal others' work. In some cases, they think their sterling credentials will serve as a shield.

Amy Bloom, a psychotherapist and author who speaks on plagiarism, noted that people from undergraduates to famous historians have been guilty of it. She said plagiarism might be underpinned by a host of motivations.

"It's laziness, it's arrogance, it's self-deception, and it's probably different things for different people," she said. "For some people, maybe they're just in a hurry. For others, they're desperate to be seen as something they're not. However accomplished they are, they're not accomplished enough."

9. Winston-Salem Journal (Winston Salem, NC), May 19, 2003, *Return of Honor*

In this season of college graduations, it is mixed news to hear that prestigious institutions of higher learning feel compelled to crack down on cheating and dust off honor codes. Reports of widespread cheating are disheartening, but news of campaigns to combat dishonesty and instill ideals of honor at schools including the University of North Carolina and Duke give hope for the future.

UNC and Duke are not imagining the problem, and they're not alone. A national survey four years ago found that about a third of students admitted to cheating on tests. Half confessed to fudging on papers.

The universities of Maryland and Virginia have had cheating scandals in the last year, and a couple of years ago a Duke survey said that half of the undergraduates admitted to collaboration and almost 40 percent to plagiarism or faking data. At Chapel Hill, a

professor reported 24 students for collaborations they should not have been making. The Internet has made cheating easier than ever.

Closer to home, Wake Forest University, which has a longstanding honor system in place, made honor and ethics its theme for the entire academic year in 2000-2001.

Where there are widespread problems, it may be because students reflect a general societal attitude that honesty is not important, or at least that it's OK to push the limits. What are young people to think when they see the president of the United States impeached for lying, or top executives and Wall Street analysts caught lying and cheating? At the nation's most prestigious newspaper, a reporter has been accused of plagiarized and fabricated facts for years.

Such scandals reinforce the notion that as a people, we're less honorable than we used to be.

Does this apparent lack of honor on campus reflect problems in homes and public schools? Eighteen-year-olds starting college shouldn't have to be introduced to the concept of integrity.

In truth, most college freshmen are not unfamiliar with honor, at least as an ideal. But studies, anecdotal evidence and reams of articles show that high-school students feel under intense pressure to get good grades. The job market is terrible, with unemployment at or above 6 percent in most parts of the country. A diploma from a selective college might swing the balance. To get into a top college takes, at a minimum, top grades. Once there, students don't want to flunk out or to lose scholarships. And once out in the workplace, new graduates want to rise to the top.

If there is a national erosion of honor, it neither begins nor ends on college campuses. But those campuses, where tomorrow's leaders are trained and values are molded, are a good place to try to stem the tide.

10. The New York Times, September 3, 2003, Sara Rimer A Campus Fad That's Being Copied: Internet Plagiarism Seems on the Rise

A study conducted on 23 college campuses has found that Internet plagiarism is rising among students.

Thirty-eight percent of the undergraduate students surveyed said that in the last year they had engaged in one or more instances of "cut-and-paste" plagiarism involving the Internet, paraphrasing or copying anywhere from a few sentences to a full paragraph from the Web without citing the source. Almost half the students said they considered such behavior trivial or not cheating at all.

Only 10 percent of students had acknowledged such cheating in a similar, but much smaller survey three years ago.

This year's study, organized by Donald L. McCabe, a management professor at Rutgers University, surveyed more than 18,000 students, 2,600 faculty members and 650 teaching assistants at large public universities and small private colleges nationwide. No Ivy League schools were included.

"There are a lot of students who are growing up with the Internet who are convinced that anything you find on the Internet is public knowledge and doesn't need to be cited," Professor McCabe said.

The survey solicited students' comments about cheating, and one student wrote, "If professors cannot detect a paper from an Internet source, that is a flaw in the grader or professor."

Another student wrote: "One time I downloaded a program off the Internet for my class. I hated the class and it was mandatory so I didn't care about learning it, just passing it."

Forty percent of students acknowledged plagiarizing written sources in the last year. As with the Internet cheating, about half the students considered this sort of plagiarism trivial.

Twenty percent of the faculty members said they use their computers, such as the turnitin.com site, to help detect student plagiarism.

Twenty-two percent of undergraduates acknowledged cheating in a "serious" way in the past year -- copying from another student on a test, using unauthorized notes or helping someone else to cheat on a test.

"When I work with high school students, what I hear is, 'Everyone cheats, it's not all that important,' " Professor McCabe said. "They say: 'It's just to get into college. When I get into college, I won't do it.' But then you survey college students, and you hear the same thing."

The undergraduates say they need to cheat because of the intense competition to get into graduate school, and land the top jobs, Professor McCabe said. "It never stops," he said.

One of the students from the survey wrote: "This isn't a college problem. It's a problem of the entire country!"

Professor McCabe said: "Students will say they're just mimicking what goes on in society with business leaders, politicians. I don't know whether they're making excuses for what they've already done, or whether they're saying, 'It's O.K. if I do this because of what's going on.' "

Many of the colleges involved in the survey have begun trying to fight cheating by educating both faculty members and students on academic integrity and revising school policies.

Princeton University was not involved in the survey, but it is among the schools that have been taking steps to make sure students know that it is wrong to use material from the Internet without citing the source.

"We need to pay more attention as students join our communities to explaining why this is such a core value -- being honest in your academic work and why if you cheat that is a very big deal to us," said Kathleen Deignan, Princeton's dean of undergraduate students.

There has not been any noticeable increase in cheating at Princeton, Ms. Deignan said, with 18 to 25 cases reported a year. Administrators have noticed, however, that sometimes students and parents do not understand why it is wrong to "borrow" sections of text for a paper without providing attribution, Ms. Deignan added.

Princeton students are also concerned, and they have organized a campus assembly on integrity for Sept. 21.

"We live in a world where a lot of this is negotiable," Ms. Deignan said. "Academic institutions need to say, 'This is not negotiable.'"

CHEATING

Water-Bottle Tricks

Some of the comments submitted anonymously by college students who took part in a survey about cheating:

If teachers taught better we wouldn't have to cheat.

Maybe schools and parents should focus on learning instead of grades.

You can't stop it. . . . Some people were just raised that way -- "do whatever you have to do."

In my freshman biology class, our professor would give us the answers to the test once we finished and turned in the test, so we could figure out what we missed before he got them out to us. One student turned in the test, went back to get his book bag and gave the sheet of paper to his friend who was still taking the test.

Someone I know once soaked the label off a water bottle, printed up a fake label, copied notes onto the back of the fake label, and pasted it back onto the water bottle. During the test, he had the water bottle on his desk. He'd take a drink, read the exposed line through the bottle and write down the answer.