

# Dean: humanities still vital

## College adjusting to more technological world

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The College of Humanities is adjusting to the increasingly career-oriented, technological world, Dean of Humanities Stanley Werbow said Thursday.

In striving for relevance among nonhumanities majors, Werbow said the college's English department will present a new literature course this spring for "technologically oriented" students who have "self-directed themselves out of reading, and poetry in particular."

Werbow, who has served as dean since the college was created six years ago, said the sharp reduction in the number of humanities majors during the last decade was "sobering." He said approximately 1,300 students are majors within the college.

**HUNDREDS OF VACANT** seats

in the Union's Quadrangle Room seemed to underscore the point as Werbow addressed what had been described as an "assembly" on "The Challenge of the Humanities."

"The College of the Humanities is a small college, but I didn't know it was this small," Werbow remarked to the amusement of the 15 persons attending.

In describing the societal role of humanities, Werbow drew from the natural sciences.

"The humanities concept serves society as this agent for preserving the dynamic system," he asserted in a comparison with the Nobel Prize winning research in nonequilibrium thermodynamics by University Prof. Ilva Prigogine.

**WERBOW SAID** the humanities can complement applied sciences by encouraging students to formulate values.

Quoting an editorial in The

Chronicle of Higher Education, Werbow said the humanities can also help students seeking business careers. The article, written by a business school dean, claimed that humanities offer a sense of historical perspective, as well as "cross-cultural awareness" and knowledge of foreign languages, with the latter two reflecting the international spread of American firms.

Werbow said he was aware of the danger of the college's overcompensating for students' career needs. "The synthesis must take place within the individual student," he added.

**ASKED ABOUT** English Prof. James Sledd's proposal that a separate department be established for teaching writing skills, Werbow said the need could be fulfilled within the English department.

"We're working very hard in im-

proving (its) writing programs and in recruiting faculty especially interested in those areas," Werbow said.

Werbow also discussed the college's "obligation to serve not just ourselves but the public at large." He said the college was attempting to "heal the break" that had developed between high school and college humanities programs, citing a recent workshop offered to high school teachers interested in adopting the University's experimental technique for teaching German.

Werbow, who said his motto is "Bother me," claimed the size of the college permits greater contact between students and faculty, and he said the college is making a concerted effort to keep up with the careers of its graduates.

English is the most popular humanities major, claiming about 500 students, Werbow said.