

The Growl --- December 1998



The Growl

The Monthly Newsletter For the Humphreys College Huskies, Stockton Campus



President's Corner

Hi, my name is Shazia Sarwar, and I'm your new Student Body President for the 1998 and 1999 school year. We have a lot to look forward to in the upcoming year. First, we are helping the Dawn House by providing Christmas presents for the children. The Dawn House is a house for abused women and their children. We are selling raffle tickets, which will provide the necessary funds to buy the presents. So, please buy a ticket, the cost is \$1.00. Second, we are having a Holiday Bake Sale on December 16, 1998 in the forum, the winners of the raffle contest will also be announced at that time. **Make sure you get your goodies!** Third, please come to the Christmas Luncheon on December 17, 1998 at noon in the forum at the Stockton campus. Kids are welcome to join in the fun.

We look forward to seeing you at the Holiday function. If you need to contact me, please leave your comments or suggestions in the Student Council box located in the Admissions Office...we are here for you!



Meet Your Teacher

LOVE OF LEARNING, JOY OF TEACHING

PROFESSOR ANN BAUERMEISTER

Interviewed by Dr. Stanislav Perkner

Professor Ann Bauermeister is one of those lucky people who develop a plan and achieve it.

"I obtained my Bachelors in Biology from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, and my Masters in Biology from University of the Pacific. I obtained my M.S. with the plan to teach biology at the college level - and here I am..."

While investigating positions, Ann Bauermeister was told about an opening at Humphreys College. Today she not only teaches Human Biology but also Introduction to Algebra, Environmental Science, and Court Reporting classes.

“Before I joined Humphreys College, I worked doing research at UC Davis, Florida State University, and UOP School of Pharmacy. In addition, I worked in the private sector: at Nelson Agricultural Laboratories in Stockton.”

Why do you like to teach?

“I enjoy sharing my love of learning with the students. It is fun to see someone turned on to something she has never even thought about before.”

What is the major problem in teaching Science today?

“Lack of background. In a world that is focused on rapid scientific advances, it is amazing that so many of our students know next to nothing about scientific principles. Too many people think that they ‘can’t do science.’”

Is Mathematics interesting?

“Yes. Another one of those things that students ‘can’t do.’ And I must admit that I used to be ‘one of those students.’ It takes hard work and perseverance, the tenacity to ask questions, and follow through to understanding. The problems are like puzzles, and there is a sense of satisfaction when one succeeds in getting the correct process and answer.”

Can you define an ideal student?

“An ideal student is one who is curious about everything and is interested in learning the ‘whys.’ An ideal student asked me recently which were the most challenging courses. She wanted to get her money’s worth. That is a challenging student.”

Tell us something about your leisure time, your hobbies.

“I like to read books, work in the yard, hike, and ride bikes - not necessarily in that order. Refinish furniture, wallpaper. Currently I am taking training to become a volunteer naturalist at Cosumnes River Preserve.”

Do you have a favorite book?

“In retrospect, it seems that becoming a volunteer naturalist is a reasonable outcome of my high school reading. I was an avid fan of Rachel Carson and Sally Carrighar. I am not sure that I read Silent Spring, but Carson also wrote The Sea Around Us, Under the Sea Wind, and The Edge of the Sea. I felt drawn by the descriptions of nature and still have my original copies of these books. Sally Carrighar’s books are One Day on Beetle Rock, One day at Teton Marsh, and Icebound Summer. The books captivated my imagination and let me experience natural forces at work in the world. I can also feel the excitement and passion I felt for the natural events presented by these two authors.”

What is your life credo, something you would like to share with others?

“Credo? - Treat people as I want to be treated - with respect and dignity. Take responsibility for my actions.”



Christmas Raffle

The Student Council has gathered together lots of goodies to help you celebrate the holidays. Buy one of the raffle tickets (a mere \$1) and take part in the fun while helping us to buy Christmas gifts for the women and children of Dawn House, a shelter for victims of family violence and abuse. The College will be hosting a Christmas party for these children and hopes to buy presents for them all. Your support will go a long way to making this a joyous holiday for yourself and for others. See Shazia Sarwar, the Student Council president, or Dr. Chabot for more details.

New Student Council

Student body elections were held in November, students choosing whom they wanted to represent them over the next academic year. The results were: Shazia Sarwar as President; Tauri Schow as Vice President; Marisa Sanchez as Secretary; and Larry Resendez as Treasurer. Gary Michael Dean and Reena Raj were elected as representatives. The council will be meeting once a month on a regular schedule starting with the winter term. If you have any ideas for the college or issues to bring before the council, please see any of the above council members, drop in on one of the meetings, or contact the council through its e-mail address at Humphreysvoices@hotmail.com. The first order of business will be to hold a raffle to raise money and buy Christmas presents for the Dawn House, a temporary shelter for women and children.



A Christmas Gift That Lasts A Lifetime

Prof. Cynthia S. Becerra

Often I have found myself at a loss of what to buy a friend or relative at Christmas time. If you're like me, you, also, agonize over getting just the right gift. Well, my American literature class and I would like to suggest some wonderful books that will keep that special someone thrilled, fascinated, or —even—better educated for a long time.

The Street Lawyer by John Grisham. Grisham takes the reader into the life of an attorney who is climbing the ladder fast when a violent encounter with a homeless man changes his life forever.

The Day of the Locust by Nathaniel West. You will enjoy reading a novel that makes light of the glamour of Hollywood. This novel is a contemporary classic about American life.

Suggested by Tauri Schow

Undaunted Courage by Steven Ambrose. This book is an all-inclusive account of the historical and adventurous journey of Lewis and Clark. Ambrose gives a complete and detailed picture about the expansion of U.S. territory. This book is a must for those who want to consider themselves well read and educated.

Suggested by Scott Mitchell

The Lady, Her Lover, and Her Lord by T. D. Jakes. Bishop Jakes, a strong presence in the religious field and author of *Women Thou Art Loose*, has done it again with his latest book. Jakes brings a message of good news and hope, reminding women that they are holy in the eyes of the Lord. Jakes helps women explore the most important relationships in their lives and explains how to transform past pains into victories.

Suggested by Dwane Nevins

Pocho by Jose Antonio Villarreal. This is a story about *pochos*, Americans whose parents immigrated to the U.S. from Mexico. This tale is about the struggles of a young boy as he grows into adulthood and is faced with having to make choices in his life between staying faithful to the traditions of his Mexican heritage or the new ideas of America. The story is set in California's rich Santa Clara and Central valleys during the Depression Era and is an eye-opener to the struggles of Mexican-Americans.

Suggested by Renee Bencich

How Stella Got her Groove Back by Terry McMillan. This novel is definitely for all the divorced mothers who also have to be the bread winners to survive. This story is about a very busy business woman who chooses not to take time for herself. With her son urging her one to take a vacation, she finds herself in an ideal fantasy involving herself and a much younger man, discovering what happiness is all about, in spite of what other people think. Terri McMillan, author of *Waiting to Exhale*, has scored again with a book that you won't be able to put down.

Suggested by Valerie Edwards

The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan. Amy Tan's popular novel captures the essence of the mother-daughter relationship—in conflict and in accord. The stories of war-torn China and recognizable San Francisco locations will allow you to journey back and forth through time without leaving your living-room sofa.

Suggested by Cynthia S. Becerra



What Are They Reading Now?

The faculty are voracious readers. Quarterly, *The Growl* will publish a list of books the faculty are reading. If you want to impress your professor, read one of the listed books and engage her or him in conversation! It's your opportunity to question your professor to see if she/he is doing the assigned reading!

Linda Rahmoller:

Into Thin Air, Jon Krakauer – tragedy on Everest

The Climb, Anatoli Boukreev – tragedy on Everest

The Winner, David Baldacci

Dr. Humphreys:

The Federalist Papers, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, James Madison

Bea Turnage:

The Runaway Jury, John Grisham

Rainbow Six, Tom Clancy

Kay Reindl:

The Best Laid Plans, Sidney Sheldon

Tell Me Your Dreams, Sidney Sheldon

The Client, John Grisham

Jim DeCosta:

The Twelfth Planet, Zecharia Sitchin

Zecharia is one of a very small number of scholars who has read the Sumerian clay tablets. He is a world-renown expert in modern and ancient Hebrew and other Semitic languages.

Ann Bauermeister:

Ragtime, E.L. Doctorow

Endangered Minds, Jane M. Healy, Ph.D.

Rowena Walker:

John Marshall, Jean Edward Smith

Some biographies are written so well that they are better than novels. This is true with this biography. John Marshall, not the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, but one of the early justices, can be credited with the true direction that the Supreme Court would take – forever. Not only is it fascinating to hear of his views of our legal system, but to read the life of this charming, handsome, scholarly man of impeccable integrity can bring real chills in you appreciate the greatness of the creators of American democracy. Also, its picture of early American is certainly more enlightening and interesting than a history textbook!

Daniel Deronda, George Eliot

I'm reading this because I enjoy George Eliot, especially her *Silas Marner* and *Middlemarch*. Okay, so it's not 20th Century! Her characterizations and description of individuals and events are perfectly fitting for our modern day. That's one reason why certain writers, such as she, are great – their perceptions are timeless. Besides, I like 19th Century love stories!

Michael Duffett:

Here is a list of my own recent reading. Feel free to stop me as I amble or trot around campus (the ambling will require less of an immovable object to meet my irresistible force!) Four names, Shakespeare, Dante, Jung and (believe it or not!) Raymond Chandler, will appear on this list regularly. These are writers I constantly re-read. Of Shakespeare recently I have re-read "The Winter's Tale," "Macbeth," and "A Midsummer Night's Dream"; of Jung, "Answer to Job" and "Psychological Types"; of Dante, the latest American Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky's translation (into, appropriately, wonderfully colloquial language) of "The Inferno"; of Chandler, "The Lady in the Lake." Other books I am reading are:

The Bhagavad Gita, Christopher Isherwood's translation

The Light of Asia, Sir Edwin Arnold

(The last two are strongly recommended if you have signed up for either the Philosophy or The Great Religions courses I'll be teaching next quarter.)

Richard Chabot:

Poverty Amid Prosperity, E.J. Taylor

A slim volume newly acquired by the library, yet already in the clutches of Dr. Chabot, is *Poverty Amid Prosperity*, based on research concerning farm workers in California's heartland. The author, E.J. Taylor, argues that bad immigration policy and labor laws that support labor-intensive farming has led to large pockets of "transient poverty" in California. Among the more controversial assertions made by the book, valley farmers are viewed as becoming too dependent on cheap migrant labor, thus slowing the mechanization of farms and orchards, and illegal immigration is guaranteed to continue due to the strong push, pull, and networking factors that support America's farm labor practices. Taylor warns that this poverty will turn on the people of California in the long run and recommends immediate changes in our unethical and unhealthy addiction on cheap migrant labor. This is certainly the kind of book that will get you tarred and feathered if you discuss it too loudly anywhere in the valley.

Jess Bonds:

Undaunted Courage, Stephen E. Ambrose – Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the opening of the American West.

Cynthia S. Becerra:

The Joy Luck Club, Amy Tan. Amy Tan's popular novel captures the essence of the mother-daughter relationship—in conflict and in accord. The stories of war-torn China and recognizable San Francisco locations will allow you to journey back and forth through time without leaving your living-room sofa.

Connie Mead:

Rainmaker, John Grisham

*Register now for
Winter Quarter
classes!*