

# *The Growl -- May 1999*

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*Growl*

The Monthly Newsletter For The Humphreys College Huskies, Stockton Campus

## **THE GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY**

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s march to Washington, the Wright brothers' flight at Kitty Hawk, T. S. Eliot's *The Wasteland*, Jonas Salk's polio vaccine, Madame Marie Curie's radioactive discoveries, Bill Gate's Microsoft empire—all are great achievements of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. But are there many others? Of course, there are, and it's up to you to discover them and tell us all about them in a three-page essay.

We want **you** to name those great achievements and explain to us why you think they are the greatest. In addition, to your name in print, you could also win a gift certificate to a local bookstore. We're not kidding!!! Also, if you're a good negotiator, perhaps you can get one of your liberal arts professors to give you extra credit just for entering *The Growl Essay Contest*.

So put pen to paper or fingers to keyboard and write. Don't procrastinate. Do it now. The contest deadline for submitting that fine essay is Friday, May 14, 1999. Remember, you don't want to let this pass you by without at least giving it your best try.

### Graduation Update

Commencement exercises are Friday, June 18 @ 7:00 p.m. Each graduate may bring 10 guests (if you bring more we're not going to exclude them). Even if you're not graduating but want to support your classmates, please attend! Information letters were mailed out the week of May 3<sup>rd</sup> to all those who have petitioned for graduation. If you did not receive yours or have further questions, please call the Registrar's Office at the Stockton campus.

Meet Your Teacher

"THE BEST EDUCATION? AN UNDYING INTEREST  
IN EVERYTHING..."

Jim DeCosta, Instructor in Office Administration

In the mid of the turbulent 1960s, Jim DeCosta entered CSU at Hayward. He was seventeen. In his own words, "I incorrectly assumed that I had access to all the information in the universe streaming through me by some mysterious process of osmosis. Without attending classes or spending my beer money on books, I simply showed up for mid-terms and finals. As my GPA plunged from 3.5 to 1.6 over five quarters, I was given the boot."

Then came the Vietnam War experience.

"The war was hot and heavy. Soon I was called upon by my country to serve in the U.S. Army. I thumbed my nose at Uncle Sam and joined the Marine Corps. As you can see, I was very good at making decisions. Believe me, two years with the Marines, that was an educational experience! In 1968, I completed my general education requirements in Chabot Community College in one quarter (Computer Science). Then came two years at CSU Hayward and San Jose State University studying Psychology (B.A. - and Dean's List every quarter; the Marines taught me well!) and Industrial Psychology (completed 24 semester units towards a M.S. before I decided I hated the field and left with a GPA of 4.0). Presently, I am enrolled in a distance Masters in Educational Technology Program at G. Washington University in Washington, D.C. "

In addition to it, Jim mentions the school of hard knocks.

"Marriage, children, truck driver, salesman, sales manager, entrepreneur, vice president, general manager, controller. An undying interest in anything and everything, the best education this world has to offer."

How did you become Humphreys College teacher?

"I had often thought about teaching as a career over the course of my life. I happened to see an advertisement in the Stockton Record and responded..."

What triggered your interest in computer technology?

"Interest in information technology has always been on the periphery of my activities. While I was employed as a general manager for a Bay Area manufacturer, I learned how to install and troubleshoot PCS mostly because I didn't want to pay outside consultants for something I thought I could learn to do on my own in very little time. During that period I became interested in knowledge-based systems, the Internet in particular, and I was hooked."

To teach about information technology means to think in a philosophical sense about its impact on the modern world.

"I see information technology as the world's opportunity to provide all that desire it, access to the greatest concepts humans and computers can invent and/or understand. True freedom of speech, for the first time in recorded history, could provide a worldwide level of understanding capable of lifting the human experience to incredible new heights. I see the development of artificial intelligent systems as the means by which an incredible leap in understanding will occur."

How would you characterize your role as a teacher at Humphreys?

"My students run the gamut, from young exuberant kids, to wise aged adults. I see little in common between them, the diversity of ability, desire, life experience, and persistence is amazing. I feel truly blessed to be able to play a part in such a grand human experiment. Initially, I came to Humphreys with the idea of sharing my life experience

with students, who might benefit from my mistakes and my business experience. Since I've been here, the students have given more to me than I could ever have dreamed possible to give to them. I'm sure most of them walk unaware of their fine gifts to their instructor, but fine those gifts have been, and received in gratitude."

What is, in your opinion, the mission of our school?

"To educate all those who seek relevance in education. Providing the necessary skills needed to earn a living in our community, while instilling in them a wonder and respect for new ideas. Encouraging those who would benefit most in continuing formal education, while encouraging all to find enjoyment in a lifetime of learning."

Tell us something about your favorite past time activities.

"I enjoy golfing with friends and family as often as I can. I enjoy reading about cosmology, physics, anthropology, and archaeology . I enjoy listening to Art Bell via the Internet, rock, blues, and classical tunes on our stereo, and watching the Discovery and Learning Channels. I enjoy inducing out of body experiences and lucid dreams since this is something I can do between 11 PM and 4 AM. I have little time for unconscious sleep, that I find boring."

What is your life credo?

"Perception is all there is, everyone is a stakeholder in reality, respect that. Beliefs are the chains that bind, while at the same time being the springboard to all experience. Control them. Desire is the fuel of experience, respect it and feed it."

~Stanislav Perkner

Mrs Silliman's War is a video (made by the National Endowment for the Humanities) which brings home the realities of the revolutionary America we study in History 101.

#### TUTORIAL CENTER UPDATE

By Michael Duffett  
Tutorial Services Coordinator

By far the most important news we have (especially for those of you puzzling over math problems) is that we are now staffed with a Math Tutor after a short Math drought. Kimberly Cardiel (formerly Frye) is back with us to help out those of you taking Math courses.

Other news is that you can now reach me by email: [mduffett@humphreys.edu](mailto:mduffett@humphreys.edu) but let me stress that I would like you to confine your email communications to appointment-setting. For any tutorial work I do with you, I really would prefer to see you face to face because, after all, that is the whole purpose of the Tutorial Center.

Finally, let me send my best wishes to all of you State-test qualifying Court Reporting students with whom I have been working exhaustively (and exhaustingly! – you should know the difference!) Keep calm and the best of luck in May when you enter that room with the hundreds of hopefuls. I'll be holding my breath!

As per your request for the next issue of The Growl, following is a listing of the current movies I have seen:

Gods and Monsters

Cookie's Fortune

Linda Rahmoller

Although not faculty, I've been watching Bagdad Cafe, Secrets & Lies, Cats- the musical

Karen