

# *The Growl -- June 1999*

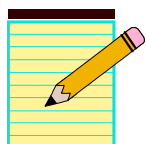
# *The*



# *Growl*

The Monthly Newsletter For The Humphreys College Huskies, Stockton Campus

Inside: Dr. Humphreys -- The Interview!



## ***Katherine Ruiz Wins Essay Contest Ronda Baker Finishes Strong Second***

A distinguished panel of Liberal Arts professors have read and discussed the entries for the essay contest that had been advertised in the April and May issues of *The Growl*. The topic for the contest was the greatest 20<sup>th</sup> Century achievement. With her extrapolating analysis of space exploits, Katherine Ruiz takes the first-place prize -- a \$30.00 gift certificate for a local bookstore. Ronda Baker's thought-provoking, anti-achievement essay caused the panel to establish a second-place prize - - a \$20.00 gift certificate. Congratulations to both winners! This month, *The Growl* proudly publishes Katherine's essay. Next month, *The Growl* looks forward to publishing Ronda's essay.

### **Here's Katherine's Essay.....**

“Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed.” Imagine sitting in your living room as these famous words echoed over the television. Now imagine 6 hours and 22 minutes later hearing, “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind,” as Neil Armstrong took his first steps on the moon. These words were the catalyst for a new age in space exploration.

The crew of Apollo 11 launched on July 16, 1969, at 9:32 a.m. EDT; four days later, on July 20, 1969, Apollo 11 landed on the moon at 4:18 p.m. EDT. I was only three years old; however, I can still imagine the chills that ran up and down one’s spine as these words were heard all across the nation. As the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this famous event comes closer, children who were born in the seventies and the eighties may think it was no big deal; we know better.

The launching of Apollo 11 was the one of the greatest achievements of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It was a crucial event during the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union. It ensured the nation that our technology and defense weapons were superior. Until Apollo 11, America was losing “the space race” to the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union launched its first satellite into space on October 4, 1957. One month later they launched Sputnik II with a live passenger, a dog named Laika. This brought the Soviet Union ahead in the space exploration battle. The Nation started to panic. There were a barrage of rumors, bomb shelters, and fear of World War III. The Americans truly believed that the Soviet Union “could wipe out most cities in the United States in a matter of a few hours with their new rockets and missiles.”

Twelve years after the launching of Sputnik II, the Americans launched their first manned mission to the moon in Apollo 11. Not only did this restore the Americans’ faith in the United States, but it also launched the imaginations of would-be screenwriters and novelists.

Yes, there were cheesy space exploration films and books floating around; however, after the launching is when the “good stuff” came. *Star Trek*, time travel, *Lost in Space*, *Star Wars*, and now 30 years after the launching, the second set of *Star Wars*. Is it a coincidence that *Star Wars* became so big and the sequel is coming out on the 30<sup>th</sup> year of this great historic event? It is likely that the mission of the Apollo 11 has little significance to most Generation Xers, in an age where cult movies like *Star Trek* and *Star Wars* make it seem that the fantasy played on the screen is just within our reach.

Let’s look at all of the technology that came about after the launching of the Apollo 11. We have satellite television, cellular phones and pagers. Our government can take a picture of anywhere on this earth from a laboratory in Florida at close range. We can communicate anywhere, anyplace, anytime. (A recent trip to the restroom proved that as a young woman was talking on her cellular phone while doing her business.)

One can be a witness in Illinois to a trial that is going on in Nevada, thanks to satellite television. Many news talk shows take advantage of this when they need to interview a person who is not “available” to be on the show. Not only can satellite television be used for depositions, trials, and interviews, but it is also used in our homes. The use of satellite television in the home has brought to us news, weather, sports, and shows from all around the globe. The race to “keep up with the Jones” has produced a war between the big technological companies.

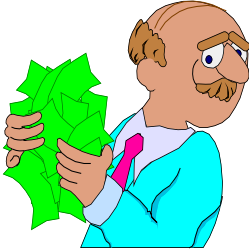
In conclusion, the mission of the Apollo 11 has produced a new age of technology. Imagine living in the 1950s then waking up in the year of 1999. It would surely be a culture shock. Not everyone had a telephone, much less a cellular phone. A pager? What is that annoying beeping thing and why would one need it? Evolution, we need it. We keep evolving into a bigger and better technological age. We need to. We can attribute all of this to the mission of Apollo 11.



### *Donations for the Red Cross Delivered*

Dr. Chabot, Professor

A couple of weeks ago, Richard Chabot's Community Affairs 101 class organized a raffle and bake sale to raise money for the American Red Cross. Originally spurred on by the devastation wrought by recent tornadoes in the mid-west, the students were able to raise almost \$300. Most of the thanks go to the many local businesses that donated items to sell and raffle off, but to you especially, the people who made the liquid capital flow. Without your buying of tickets and baked goods, our drive to help the Red Cross and people in need would not have been possible. Many thanks to you all!



## *Meet Your Teacher*

***“Every person has value . . . ”***

Dr. Robert G. Humphreys, President and Professor of Business Administration

**Before becoming the college president, you obviously had to spend your own share of years in classrooms as a student . . .**

*“Not only in classrooms! My association with the college began in 1970. Prior to that I worked at the Port of Stockton as a longshoreman and as a lineman for the telephone company. To make a very long story short, I decided to quit the phone company and return to college primarily because I did not like climbing telephone poles. My first job at the college was as a grounds person. I mowed the lawn and weeded the flower areas. While doing that, I attended Delta College and then transferred to Stanislaus State where I received a BA in Mathematics. At U.C. Davis I got an M.A. in Mathematics. After that, I went to the University of Santa Clara and received an M.B.A. and Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics in the School of Business.”*

**When did you start to teach?**

*“During that time I taught mathematics, primarily calculus and statistics; first, in the undergraduate program and then in the graduate MBA program at Santa Clara. While doing this I also taught various math classes at Humphreys and served first as Dean of Instruction (1975-1978) and then as vice-president (1979-1980). I became President in January of 1980.”*

**The college that bears your name was founded more than a century ago by your grandfather, presided over by your father, and for the last two decades it has been your job. Did you always wish to pursue that family career?**

*“My dream was to be an airline pilot. I took flying lessons as a teenager and earned my private, commercial, multi-engine, and instrument ratings. I worked at the local airport as a charter pilot for a couple of years. I was so good that I neglected to put time into my studies which, as it turned out, was what the airlines were really interested in. ‘Flying is our business, we can teach you to fly,’ they would say. ‘We are interested in someone who can study, learn, and achieve in college.’ When I returned to college and started teaching math at Humphreys I realized that education was an important and valuable thing to do and I decided to pursue it.”*

**What is the mission of Humphreys College today, shortly before the beginning of the new millennium?**

*“There is, of course, a mission statement in the catalog. To paraphrase it, I would say that our mission is to provide an educational experience for our students that prepares them both vocationally and academically in the hopes that they will be more rounded and better informed members of the community. Personalized attention is important at Humphreys College, unlike at other larger and more bureaucratic institutions.”*

**Could you characterize an ideal student of Humphreys College?**

*“I would rather talk about the ideal student outcome. All students are important and deserve an opportunity to get a college education. The ideal outcome is when students take advantage of the resources available and are successful in achieving their goals. Often this includes realizing that they can actually go further than they thought and end at a higher level than they expected. There is nothing quite as satisfying as seeing a student who came to the college initially to get job skills suddenly realizing his or her academic and intellectual potential, going on and completing the associate or bachelor’s degree. This is something we can do here at Humphreys that you can’t do at many other colleges.”*

**As a college president and professor of business administration for the last twenty years, do you see any differences between students of the year of 1980 and 1999?**

*“I think that being a student now is much more difficult than it was twenty years ago. Economic pressures make it necessary for more students to work more hours while pursuing their education. Many students have families and children that add additional pressures. Hopefully, our new child care facility will help reduce some of these concerns and help students to further their education.”*

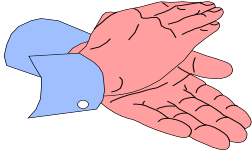
**What do you like to do in your leisure time?**

*“I like to read, listen to music, play the piano and ukulele, fly, snorkel and scuba dive.”*

**What is your life credo?**

*“Every person has value and every person has assets and liabilities. It is our job to help a person identify his or her assets and build on them, while learning to accept and live with the liabilities. Too often we tend to concentrate on the difficult aspects of a person, while losing sight of his or her many wonderful and positive characteristics. None of us will ever be ‘perfect,’ whatever that means. But we can always strengthen our strong points, mitigate our weaknesses, and help others to do the same.”*

**~Interviewed by Stanislav Perkner**



## ***Volunteer of the Year on Campus***

Lance Hall, Registrar

The Stockton Unified School District recently named Sharlissa Turner School Volunteer of the Year.

As a paralegal transfer student, Sharlissa leads a busy life. Here is her typical day: Volunteer every weekday morning at Kennedy and/or Harrison elementary schools. Her areas of specialty are tutoring in computers and working with special education children. Teach preschoolers in the early afternoon every weekday at Roosevelt elementary school. Be a devoted mom and wife in the late afternoon. Study at Humphreys College in the early evening.

Because of this breakneck schedule, Sharlissa has received recognition not only from the school district but also from the offices of Assembly member Michael Machado and Senator Patrick Johnston. Not bad for someone who has only lived in Stockton for about 9 months. Congratulations!



## ***St. Joseph's Hospital -- A Tour Of The Clinical Laboratory***

Nancy Doyle, Student

Ms. Bauermeister's Medical Term II class recently went on a field trip to St. Joseph's Hospital with Supervisor Terri as our guide. Specifically, we toured the clinical laboratory where we learned about three major types of lab tests: blood, urine and stool.

As we began our tour where the blood samples are tested, we saw a former Humphreys student, Lisa Nelson, who has been working there for about a month now. She said it's wonderful and she loves the lab.

Terri explained to us where many of the blood tests come from locally, how the testing procedure starts, how it is stored for future blood transfusion, and that the blood is good for only 45 days, and then discarded. She told us about how the FDA regulations have become very strong since the AIDS crisis.

We saw the glass temperature-controlled cases where the blood is kept separated by their different types, such as A, B, O, and AB. At the Bar Code Station, there was a huge machine called the Auto Coagulation Analyzer, which tested how well blood clots. Absolutely everything had bar codes for identification purposes, so as to have no chance of error.

We continued on to where the urine tests are done. The technician showed us how a urine specimen is first put into a smaller vial, then poured into a huge machine that has a small opening, which she referred to as a tiny toilet. Within a few minutes, an analysis comes up on the color-coded screen, which responds to a simple touch of the screen to display specific results. The department can process about 250 specimens a day.

We concluded our tour with the microbiology portion, where they test for bacteria, fungi, TB, viruses, herpes, and other parasites. There was a chart on the wall for "Quick Reference of Reportable Diseases," with descriptions and time frames reflecting immediate, 1-day, and 7-day contact time for communicable diseases. Of course, we all enjoyed the specimen of the worm, about 5 inches long, that was found in a farm worker's stool, who lives somewhere in Lodi.

A wonderful and informative tour was had by all. So if you ever get the opportunity to tour St. Joseph's Hospital Clinical Laboratory, don't pass it up.



## ***Another Invitation To The Center***

Michael Duffett, Tutorial Services Coordinator

Help is constantly at hand for students at all levels and of all subjects now that we have a new Math Tutor on board at A-5 on the West Campus - the quietest, most remote spot in the planet, and you can hear the birds singing and (if you're very attentive, hear the flowers in the adjacent field growing!)

Seriously, pay us a visit, all you seasoned undergraduates and you new incoming students eager to get a jumpstart on your studies at Humphreys. Ms. Queen is as cheerful and helpful as ever in her presentation of the wonders of accounting. Kimberly Cardiel can take you through the knotty mysteries of mathematics and Dr. D. will not only illuminate the complexities of grammar and syntax (in English or Spanish!) but get you past your writer's block with that term paper that has been nagging at the back of your mind for days!

Come by and enjoy what is your free right as a student at Humphreys!



## ***What Are They Reading Now?***

Here's what some of your professors do while the rest of the world watches t.v.!

Dr. Richard Chabot: I'm (re)reading a book detailing life in early 1980s China titled *China: Alive in the Bitter Sea* by Fox Butterfield and (selectively) reading *Days of Obligation: An Argument with My Mexican Father* by Richard Rodriguez.

Jess Bonds: I'm reading *Beaver Skins and Mountain Men* by Carl Burger. A strange title, I know. It's about the influence that European demand for beaver skins had on the settling of the New World -- first Canada, then the Northern Plains, and onward to the West Coast. The book continues the theme of western settlement I became interested in when reading *Undaunted Courage*.

Dr. Michael Duffett: The one book I would extract from my recent reading which has been conditioned and curtailed by my widely various teaching recently: Spanish, History, Philosophy and Religion, relates to the latter subject. It is called *The Way of Passion* by a brilliant man (he was elected to a college of professors-only - All Souls in Oxford - at the age of twenty-one!) called Andrew Harvey. The book deals with the poems of the 12th century mystic Jalaludin Rumi, but it has remarkable relevance for what Harvey sees as our not only troubled, but seriously threatened, times.

Rowena Walker: *The Letters Between John Adams and Thomas Jefferson*, an amazing collection of letters between two of the founding fathers of our country. Coincidentally (?), both men died on the same day -- July 4, 1826 -- the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.