

CONTENTS

Preface	i
Honors Program Community Statement	ii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	iii
<i>Sequential Art: “Snail Hunting With Dad”</i> Nikki Boudreau	iv
*FEATURE ARTICLES *	
<i>Entries to Poetic Perception</i>	
<i>*Philosophical Concepts of Nature and Wilderness in the Poetry of Gary Snyder*</i>	1
Joshua Kerr	
<i>*Anticipations of Jungian Imagination in Wordsworth’s Poetry*</i>	9
Jolene Howard	
<i>Entries to Exilic Perception</i>	
<i>*Exiles and Transnationals: 19th Century Irish and Contemporary Mexican Immigration To The United States*</i>	17
Therese A. Lunt	
<i>Sequential Art: “Oppression”</i>	26
Nikki Boudreau	
<i>Why Study the Hmong Population?</i>	27
Susan Lao	
Violence in the Name of Identity	29
Nikki Boudreau	
<i>Sequential Art: “Bridenapping in Kyrgyzstan”</i>	32
Nikki Boudreau	

<i>“I Pledge Allegiance...”</i>	33
<i>Breeann Wright</i>	
<i>Assessing Amin Maalouf’s “In the Name of Identity: Violence and the Need to Belong”</i>	35
<i>Justine Keel</i>	
Entries to Rethinking the Influence of Cultural Constructs: Capstone Research Projects	
<i>Perceptions of Parental Relationships: Tracking Sources of Pessimism and Optimism in Young Adult Attitudes About Marriage</i>	37
<i>Shannon Ramazzina</i>	
<i>Connections Between Parental Involvement and Academic Achievement Among Hispanic and Non-Hispanic Students</i>	43
<i>Arelí Dohner-Chávez</i>	
<i>Victim Blaming</i>	51
<i>Elizabeth Conaway</i>	
<i>Her Kingdom for a Life: The Forgotten Works of California’s First Poet Laureate, Ina Coolbrith</i>	63
<i>Matthew Moberly</i>	
<i>Entries to the Absurd World of “Waiting for Godot”</i>	
<i>A Future Hope</i>	67
<i>Breeann Wright</i>	
<i>Waiting for God? Oh.</i>	69
<i>Justine Keel</i>	
<i>Sequential Art: “Ants”</i>	Back Cover
<i>Nikki Boudreau</i>	

Entries

A Journal of Exploratory Research and Analysis

Perspectives dominate our everyday perceptions, directing our attention both *toward* and *away from* facets of reality which, when taken together, comprise the complex makeup of our surrounding world. Friedrich Nietzsche refers to this as our “wholeness in diversity,” by which he also means: “our spaciousness and multiplicity” (*Beyond Good and Evil*, §212). In the process of acquiring perspective in life, we cultivate attunements, attitudes and convictions. But do we always recognize how these orientations sensitize or desensitize us to the blind spots in our understanding? Are there not issues, concerns, opportunities and challenges relevant to our lives that we can only appreciate *from somewhere else*? As we grow older in life, we clearly discover points of entry to our surrounding world, but only by closing off or eclipsing *other* points of entry.

To see the world in a new light, to acquire new *entries* to the world, is to become responsive in a new way. The capacity to respond to issues and concerns otherwise masked from view demands a special openness and attention to what we find strange and challenging. We seldom see the world in a new light without first having the curiosity and willingness to explore unexpected or marginalized phenomena; nor without learning to discern otherwise hidden facets of our filtered social constructions.

The call to see the world in a new light -- to “open the universe a little more,” as Salman Rushdie has urged in *Imaginary Homelands* -- calls for critical voices, exploratory minds and the empowerment of creative forms of expression carefully interwoven with sensitive analysis and personal concern. It calls for attending to complexities in life that are all-too-often eclipsed from view by more dominant ways of thinking, feeling and speaking. Above all,

it calls for *an attentive ear*, the first condition for generating an attentive *response*.

The articles comprising this fourth annual journal solicit your ear and seek to direct your attention once again to the *margins of normalization*, to spaces of multiplicity where the questions reveal unthinkable *difference* in the midst of what is unthinkably the *same*. Questions posed in this manner challenge us to think in the *margins of difference*. The goal is to expand our perspective by revealing silent facets of our surrounding world that are calling for our attention: *new points of entry to expand the scope of life that matters to us*.

Exploratory research and analysis is the key to opening the universe a little more. The contributions to follow offer opportunities for reflective thought and further lines of study regarding phenomena that speak to us from the margins of our personal, human, social, political and institutional involvements.

Our first cluster of papers explores entries to the poetic margins of human encounters with nature. A second cluster offers entries to questions of identity motivated by the standpoint of exile and nourished by the tempting desire to *belong* without *letting go*. A third cluster of papers explores entries to exploring some odd facets of disconnection percolating through contemporary society. The final cluster promises to relieve any stress you might acquire along the way, in exchange for entry to the absurd world of Samuel Beckett’s *Waiting for Godot*.

We trust you will enjoy these exploratory excursions into some uncanny regions of our experience. If they catch your ear and you are in the neighborhood on the afternoon of May 22nd, drop by the John Rogers Faculty Development Center and continue the explorations with us! There just might be more at stake in these questions and concerns than one is ordinarily inclined to recognize.

**HONORS PROGRAM
COMMUNITY STATEMENT**

The Honors Program at CSU Stanislaus is a community of scholars bound together by vital principles of academic openness, integrity, and respect. Through focused study and practice involving exploration and discovery across a variety of disciplines, the Honors Program upholds these principles of scholarly engagement and provides students with the necessary foundations for further research and inquiry.

Our interdisciplinary curriculum is integral to this work, and is intended to facilitate creative understanding of the irreducible complexities of contemporary life and knowledge. Personal and intellectual honesty and curiosity are essential to this process. So, too, is critical openness to difficult topics and respect for different perspectives, values and disciplines. The Honors Program aims to uphold these virtues in practice, in principle, and in community with one another.

Honors Program Advisory Committee

May 14, 2004

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Seniors in the Honors Program are encouraged to tackle complex problems using methods and knowledge from related disciplines. Honors Program faculty and research mentors offer critical feedback and guidance along the way. The main objective is for students to explore, gather and analyze information effectively, and to reflect on the implications of what they have discovered. Group discussions help to promote thoughtful questions. The goal is to communicate knowledge, judgments and original perspective derived from careful inquiry, exploration and analysis. Seniors will discuss the results of their research at the Senior Honors Conference on Tuesday, May 22, 2007 from 1:00-6:30pm, in the John Rogers Faculty Development Center. We hope you can join us!

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