

Elaine Stahlheber, 1986, Nursing

Years Attended: 1984-86

Area of Study: Nursing

Those of you who know Elaine might be interested to respond to her blog. She writes:

“My poor little blog.... I have been thinking about it continuously and thinking of all the things I could write about and of topics I can't write about... <http://elaineastahlheber.blogspot.com/>

I studied nursing in Arizona at a junior college located in what was then a relatively small but well-known town in Arizona on Indian Reservation Land. The name of the college is Yavapai College named after the tribe whose land it is on. Here is the URL of the tribe: <http://www.ypit.com/>.

My time at YC was a great education in so many ways. For example, I had science teachers who were PhDs rather than grad students which was great fun and enormously helpful. These guys really wanted to teach and they did a great job. Taking geology, chemistry, astronomy, math, biology and anatomy more or less at the same time from this small group of instructors in a land focused on the local natural history and geology really made these subjects come alive for me both intellectually and metaphorically.

The understandings that I developed then continue to inform me and help me make sense of the enormous global shifts, which are so very obvious in our lives currently.

One of the reasons I left Arizona was due to future issues (now current and future) regarding water resources. I just wasn't comfortable being part of a system that for sure taxes the water table more than is sustainable.

Secondly this boat on the water pretty much sums up how I feel about my life... My little boat on the sea of life....

One of the metaphors that made so much sense for me is that of "Brownian Motion" defined by Wikipedia as follows:

"Brownian motion (named after the botanist Robert Brown) is the random movement of particles suspended in a liquid or gas or the mathematical model used to describe such random movements, often called a particle theory. The mathematical model of Brownian motion has several real-world applications. An often quoted example is stock market fluctuations."

I first saw Brownian motion at work in a microbiology class. We observed the movement of a particle of dust suspended in a drop of water. You would think that because it's a particle of dust that it would not move at all but there were what I call "universal forces" attendant upon the dust that made it move in several directions. While we are not as helpless as the particle of dust, nonetheless I think that there are some relevant correlations of sorts.