

Homer Barron  
College Comp 2  
Guest Speaker: Barb Schmitz

Our latest guest speaker was Barb Schmitz, she is now a safety inspector. What she does is she gets clients to come to their businesses to teach the employers how to be safe and shows them what may happen if they are not. Schmitz stated some of the presentations can be pretty graphic with the pictures, but it is real life and accidents do happen; she is just trying to prevent that from happening. Schmitz stated to the class she has not always been her own boss and her road to success was the furthest thing from a straight line. Schmitz compared her path to success to a twisty road that has multiple curves. Schmitz hit on a couple of key ideas from Malcolm Gladwell's, *Outliers* like, there is a purpose to everything that happens to you, you are going to be okay, and finally bloom in the soil you are planted in, no matter how shitty.

The first message Schmitz tried to make a strong point to our class of seniors was that there is a purpose to everything that happens to you. Being seniors this message was like relieving a heavy burden off of my shoulders. Schmitz along with Mr. Reynolds reiterated how not knowing what your next move is, is okay and normal. In the end, or when you have made it to your job that you have been putting in your 10,000 hours for, you'll look back and understand why things happen the way they do. Gladwell says while talking about Bill Gates looks back on his childhood and now understands why having access to a computer lab was so beneficial to his career boom. Without those extra hours Gates would not have become multi billionaire.

Continuing off of the first idea Schmitz also eased our minds with the idea that everything is going to be okay. Everything being anything from your family, education, or success. Schmitz shared with us that when her and her husband were milking cows, things were not going good at all. Schmitz said it was time for her to get a job after being out of work and being a full time stay at home mom to her children. As Schmitz got back into working an opportunity came along for her to do what she is doing now, which like I said earlier she is now her own boss of her safety company. Before making this leap of faith that Schmitz said she was very nervous about, her husband said to Schmitz, whatever you do, we are going to be okay, we always will be. Schmitz said this was the best piece of advice she has gotten thus far in her career because sometimes you need that reassurance.

Finally the last message and the most powerful message Schmitz left us with was, bloom in the soil you are planted in, no matter how shitty. This hit home and gave all of us in the class a reality check. Schmitz wanted us to know that no matter how bad you think you may have it, someone else, somewhere else is struggling harder than you. Also that you have to make the best out of what God gives you. You yourself determine how well or how bad your situation is.

In conclusion, listening to Barb Schmitz was extremely eye opening that anything can be done now matter how many setbacks you may encounter. This gives us seniors hope that everything does not have to be planned out step by step just yet, and to just go with what you have.

February 8th

Notes-

- Didn't know that her career even was a job
  - Going to be a legal secretary and then just get married
    - Went to technical school
  - Married at 19, and bought a dairy farm
    - Took on too much responsibility right away / too young
  - Decided to stay home with kids
  - Went into burnout depression after staying home with kids for two years.
  - Went back to work / too much debt
  - Part time job (county highway) came along, applied for it and they accepted her.
    - Got the job from talking to her former boss, and he had great things to say about her.  
(Relationships / Connections)
  - County Highway boss asked her to go into safety work.
  - She began writing letters and news articles then it went statewide
  - Her supervisor said you need to go take this different job, because it will make you better
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- Many different jobs along away
  - Thought she had her dream job, but there was a new door to open.
  - "You need to do whatever you think is right, we will be fine"
    - She needed her husbands support / he really thought she was making a huge mistake leaving the paid Healthcare, summers off, and a steady income.
  - The money doesn't drive her, the thing that drives her is wanting to help people and make them want to be safe.
  - Time is too important to waste others time, because of boring powerpoints.
    - She makes all her own presentations
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- Be open to the opportunities when they come your way, even if they dont look like an opportunity.
  - Skills now (kind, hard working, how you act with other people) are going to carry you everywhere you go.
    - These traits will get you noticed.
  - Who knows you, that's what gets you noticed.
  - Took on Digikey -- Mr. Zutz called her.
    - Called her because she can relate to anyone, no matter what job
  - **Don't take the easy way / the easy way never builds character.**
  - Persevere and stick with it. You get through it, things get easier

- **Don't let fear hold you back; fear is just a stepping stone.**
- **Bloom in the soil that you are planted. No matter how shitty the soil**
- **Look up and notice the people around you**
- Every job had its importance
- **Charlie Plumm's story from POW**
- **There is a purpose for everything that happens**
- Acceptance to the why he was tortured for 6.5 years (591 people in POW camp)
- **You are alive & somebody cares about you**
- No matter how big your role is, always know that everyone's role is just as important as the next.  
Look out for the little people
- Validation comes from knowing you are doing your best job you can do.
- Find your passion and work hard for them.
- **You are going to be okay.**
- **Whose parachute are you packing? And whose parachute are you packing?**
- Embrace the curveball! It could be your opportunity
- Declare your mission