

## Ten Fun Facts About Phyllis J. Brown

1. "Mother" to 19 Basset hounds - from first generation: Ed Ennis Parker and wife, Millie and their descendants, finally, down to the last two Animal Shelter (SPCA) adoptees: Beaumont and Bailey. What a joyful canine socialization experience learning from them for nearly thirty years studying the antics of these lovable pals! We observed their parallel to human issues and doggie family life drama. Bassets happily follow their noses and then miles away from home look up and wonder where they are. Through it all braved one determined feline who adopted us—Ajineawaa, given the name which means "cat" in Folygon's Twi language.
2. Teaching is a profession where you do not often see the life-effect results of your efforts. One of my greatest joys is when former students find me, and we have fun chats about their lives: their professions, their accomplishments, the things they remember from our time together in class. I am encouraged when I hear "I think about you often...", " I know you did not think I was listening, but I tell my kids what you said about..."
3. Three former students in my English or African-American literature courses went on to become professional athletes.
4. One day in the middle of teaching, a former student walked in with a reporter and an MTV cameraman behind him. He had become a professional singer/composer/hip hop artist. In the interview about his high school days, he said he kept in mind my encouragement to use his words responsibly.
5. I walked across San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge and beyond in a 7-K tournament; I'm thankful my daughter was there to physically push me over the last couple blocks. I've still got the shirt!
6. Experiences include
  - Mexico's Tenochtitlan pyramid
  - Statue of Liberty in NY/NJ
  - Eifel Tower in Paris
7. Some of my safari experiences include: in Zambia, wary walking up to a black rhino who was ten feet away and tried to hide his flip-flop foot caused by combat with an elephant; in Kenya, accepting and impromptu invitation to visit to a Masai village in the Masai Mara; tense moments being stopped in the midst of a curious lion pride when my driver got out of the car with a rope to help a tour van stuck in the mud; and being hugged by a giraffe cheek to cheek - I still giggle thinking about that.
8. I became a collector of authentic African dresses and head wraps when I arrived in Senegal, my first country on the Continent. I now have garments from almost every African nation I've visited.
9. I escaped Moctezuma's Revenge while visiting Mexico City, but was hit by it hard after being lured by a magnificent mango juice that I could not resist in Egypt. (Was that TMI?)
10. I love *The Sound of Music* and was a guest for two nights in Maria's room in the Von Trap family home (now a Bed & Breakfast) in Strausberg, Austria. The patrons and tour guide sang songs from the movie as we drove around the town to all the film sites. I enjoyed belting out every song by heart.

<http://PhyllisJBrown.com>