

Jo Ann Lee Has Turned Volunteering into a Way of Life

By Jo Ann Lee

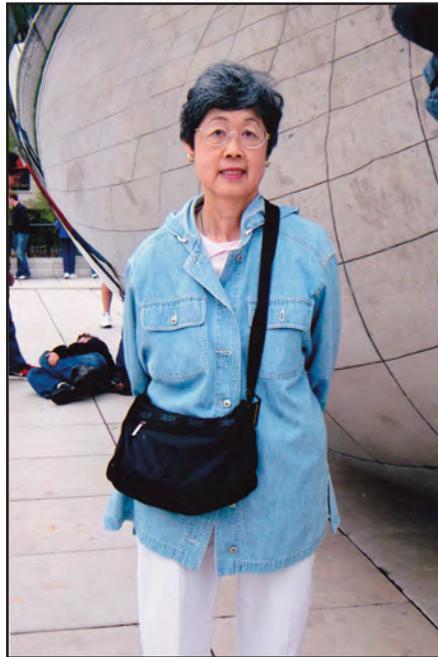
It's hard to believe that I am into year six of retirement. For me, the transition from work to retirement was easy, as I have continued two activities that began many years before: mediating small claims court cases and volunteering at the Pasadena Playhouse.

Mediation is one form of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) or conflict resolution in which the mediator acts as a neutral third party in helping disputing parties reach a satisfactory resolution of their differences. Mediation is an effective alternative to going before the judge, because the parties retain control over the ultimate outcome of their dispute. Since 1999, I have been a volunteer with the Center for Conflict Resolution in Reseda, a non-profit organization funded by a grant from the Los Angeles County Community and Senior Services Dispute Resolution Program. I have also been a mediator with the L.A. County Consumer Affairs Department.

Small claims court cases in California are limited to \$7,500. The types of cases heard consist of landlord-tenant (residential and commercial), consumer-merchant, business-business, neighbor-neighbor, family/domestic, citizen-government, personal injury/property damage, and workplace.

I've met all sorts of people (and many "characters" as well); listened to reasons, excuses, and "it's the principle of the matter." I have helped parties work through the assortment of conflicts, disputes, and disagreements that human interaction and business transactions can create.

Here is a sampling of cases I've dealt with through the years: A landlord withheld a former tenant's security deposit because of missing light bulbs and a toilet tissue holder.



Jo Ann Lee

A tenant tore out existing kitchen cabins and installed new ones to her liking. The owner of a cannabis outlet purchased a magazine ad and later claimed he did not receive any inquiries or business, blaming the publication for its lack of circulation in the area specified in the contract. A customer purchased a puppy from a mill and had spent thousands of dollars in medical and hospital bills for the sick dog, which eventually died. A couple hired a professional photographer to take their wedding pictures and provide an album and a DVD, but he did not provide any of the items. A chiropractor sued his attorney for failure to disburse funds arising out of an insurance settlement.

A young woman who was not fluent in English purchased a car posted on the Internet and asked a friend to help translate the

transaction; the woman signed the sales agreement that included "As Is, No Warranty," and the pink slip showed the car was a salvaged vehicle. A co-signer on a note was sued by the lender for nonpayment of the loan; the co-signer's brother, the principal borrower, was in jail and could not repay the loan. A plaintiff's former girlfriend sold his tractor although she did not have permission to do so, and he sued the purchaser for return of his tractor and costs incurred in having to rent a tractor for his work. The purchaser filed a cross-claim for the purchase price paid plus the cost of repairs he made. A woman who had insisted she be hired as an independent contractor rather than an employee for an airline sued for breach of an employment contract and back pay when she was terminated. An LAPD officer sued his neighbors when their dog attacked him and they called him disparaging names. During discussions, a third party came over and told the parties "We received an OK to appear on *Judge Judy!*" End of mediation!

The most challenging cases are personal injury and property damage in automobile accidents. Plaintiffs sue for medical bills and auto repair bills when they do not have collision insurance; or if a party has been paid for property damage, the injured party will sue for medical expenses. Police reports often consist of details that the individuals themselves report, so such reports cannot always be relied upon. Although an insurance claims adjuster may have the authority to negotiate a claim on behalf of the insured, insurance companies typically do not want to mediate. Often they will deny a claim but will pay it later if the court deter-

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More About Jo Ann Lee's Volunteer Activities

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mines the insured was at fault.

Additional challenges occur when a defendant files a cross-claim for damages or expenses incurred or when multiple plaintiffs or multiple defendants are involved. All claims and all parties involved must be dealt with. In general, there is no "winner" if a case proceeds to trial—a plaintiff may not always be awarded the amount sued for and has no right to appeal if unsuccessful; a defendant risks a 200-300 point hit on her/his credit rating because a judgment appears as a debt on a credit report. The objective in mediation is to obtain a win-win outcome.

Mediation is a voluntary and confidential process, so both parties must be willing to try to mediate.



Often, the parties have never met—they've had only phone calls or messages, e-mails, or letters—usually demands and accusations and denials of responsibility. And very often, the parties just want a chance to vent. I listen and ask questions to help clarify the situation and

their positions. Thus getting the parties to meet and talk on the day of trial is a meaningful (and usually a productive) activity. Most cases involve fairly similar situations; however, it's the parties' personalities that can make the mediation process interesting, challenging, and often maddening! When mediation doesn't seem to be working, the parties are referred to court to have their case decided by a judge.

There are always some contentious parties. But in the current economic climate, I've found that litigating parties seem to have more of a sense of entitlement, they hold stubbornly to their refusal to pay, or they deny responsibility. Or, they simply do not have the ability to pay. And of course everyone "knows" he or she is right! Another challenge is that English is not the native language of many litigants. Russian, Korean, Farsi, Armenian, Spanish, and other foreign language interpreters have to help the parties through the court or mediation process. Depending on the number of litigants waiting for mediation, I generally have



20-30 minutes to spend per case. Frequently, some parties are able to work out their own tentative terms and need my assistance in fine-tuning and formalizing a written agreement for them.

A mediator has to be creative in offering ideas to help the parties negotiate a possible settlement—payment plans when a lump-sum payment is not possible; payment upon completion of agreed-upon work; reasonable reductions in damage claims; return of some or more of a security deposit; negotiated fees for services provided. Whatever the parties agree to as being fair and reasonable, I create a written settlement agreement on the spot and dismiss the case on behalf of the plaintiff. The agreement can be binding on the parties, allowing either to return to court on the same matter in case of default. Mediated agreements are successful in over 85 percent of cases because the parties themselves—rather than a judge—decide the outcome. When the parties enter into mediation willingly and with open minds and are able to reach a satisfactory settlement, I'm delighted because everyone walks out of the courthouse as "winners."

Always the teacher, I try to offer parties some take-away advice to avoid "the next



time": "get it in writing," "never pay cash," "get a receipt,"

"get a written estimate," "check out the BBB or Contractors Licensing Board"; "landlords and tenants, do a walk-through before and after renting housing." You can be sure that I incorporated many of these cases as topics of discussion in my classes!

In addition to mediating, I spend some of my time at the Pasadena Playhouse, State Theatre of California, is a venerable institution that once housed the College of Theatre Arts with such alumni as Dustin Hoffman, William Holden, Gene Hackman, Raymond Burr, Victor Jory, Carolyn Jones, Gloria Stuart, and Sally Struthers. My volunteer jobs

include that of greeting patrons and ushering. As a member of the hospitality committee, I occasionally provide food for the pot luck dinners for the cast and crew between shows on Saturdays. Other areas for volunteers are leading backstage tours, helping with mailings, selling merchandise, and other activities. (Check out www.pasadenaplayhouse.org.)

For the past two years, I have also been a member of a Los Angeles Philharmonic affiliate organization, the Speakers Bureau. We speak to civic and community groups about the L.A. Phil and Maestro Gustavo Dudamel, the Walt Disney Concert Hall and the Hollywood Bowl. We work with the Symphony for Schools program, which provides volunteers in the classrooms to talk about symphonic music, musical instruments and musicians, and behavior at a concert (when to clap). These students are later invited to attend a concert at the Disney Concert Hall! During the off season of the Hollywood Bowl, I lead tours for student



groups.

These tours include the operations and backstage areas, the Hollywood Bowl Museum, the MusicMobile and the stage itself. Students are asked to prepare a song to sing on stage—the highlight of their field trip, as they imagine 17,000 pairs of eyes watching them. Then we zigzag our way to the top tier of seats in the Bowl so students can see the HOLLYWOOD sign and the Griffith Park Observatory.

My other retirement activities include traveling and photography! This year, my travels include Mackinac Island and the Tulip Festival in Holland, MI; SW England and London; Prague and a riverboat cruise on the Rhine and Main Rivers; and Savannah and Charleston.

So, retirement is going well! I recommend it highly!

Please consider sharing your experiences as a volunteer. Not only would we all enjoy reading about what you're doing, it will give ideas to other retirees who are looking for interesting things to do with their time.



The photo above was shot from Stan's and Dixie's property, looking toward Big Horn Canyon. The photo on the left shows the discovery Stan and his father made when they explored the mine.



Sharing Memories and a Mystery

By Stan Coutant

During the late 50s my dad and I would hike up Bighorn Canyon. There it was in plain sight, a mere half-mile to the south, and exploring it seemed the natural thing to do. Each trip we would venture a bit farther.

On a Saturday afternoon we came upon the remains of two collapsed riveted steel water tanks. Apparently they had caught on trees and boulders during a flood, and had been ripped apart. One was resting at an odd angle. We climbed upon it and jumped up and down. It was springy, like a trampoline.

Where had they come from? What was awaiting us farther upstream? A long-abandoned ranch, perhaps? A forgotten settlement in the mountains? Since the sun appeared to be about an hour from setting, we decided to return to our cabin and get a fresh start another day.

The following weekend we did just that, and before long we arrived at the water tanks. Continuing up the canyon we noticed tailings streaming down the western slope, but could see nothing unusual above them.

Perhaps 30 or 40 minutes later we had succeeded in clambering up the steep canyon wall to the point where the tailings started. There before us was a heavy wooden door in the rock face of the wall. A chain secured with bailing wire held the door closed.

There were no signs, no footprints, and no marks of any kind to suggest anyone had visited the site in recent times. We opened the door and peered in. Daylight illuminated the first fifty feet or so, and quickly faded into darkness.

The tunnel had been cut as straight as a string into the solid granite. There was no

shoring, and from what we could see, none was needed. We ventured in to a point where the sunlight ended and only blackness lay ahead. There was a faint smell of rotting. Not the smell of a dead rat; something less intense, less threatening than death. Yet it was creepy.

We turned around and were nearly blinded by the sunlight shining in like a searchlight beam. We retreated into the daylight and took several deep breaths I believe just to prove to ourselves that we still could.

The following week we contacted Deputy Sheriff Percy E. "Red" Stilwell in Lucerne Valley and shared our find. He was interested, and asked if we could guide him to the site.

He explained that he appreciated knowing of these locations in the event it ever became necessary to search for someone who was missing or was hiding from the law. He mentioned the possibility of a draft dodger living in such a place during World War II. Saturday morning, Jan. 4, 1958 Deputy Stilwell and Reserve Deputy R. A. Mitchell met us at our cabin. Flashlights, flash cameras, and Coleman lanterns were brought out, and the four of us began our hike to the tunnel.

Upon arrival the lanterns were lighted and we started into the mine. The tunnel continued straight for about two hundred feet. At all times we could see the brilliance of the entrance behind us, although its size had shrunk considerably into what looked like a mere crawlspace in the distance.

I found it interesting that the floor was flat. There was no rubble. Someone had done a lot of work with what I assumed to be a square-nosed shovel in the same manner one prepares to pour a concrete slab.

The height of the tunnel was also a point of interest. We never had to duck. Several times I found myself instinctively stooping, but I suspect that was because I was not wearing a hard hat. When I thought about it, I walked upright... but in spite of the ample clearance, I wished for a safety helmet. Perhaps we all did.

At this depth the tunnel branched into three: two at ninety-degree angles both left and right, and the third at what I would characterize as a right oblique that continued another hundred feet, at which point it simply stopped. But the two branch tunnels, each perhaps 20 to 30 feet deep, were filled with cardboard boxes.

Deputy Stilwell investigated, and discovered the source of the rotten odor. Several boxes contained canning jars filled with cauliflower that had dissolved the metal lids. What we had been smelling were spoiled vegetables. We poked around a bit more but discovered nothing startling.

Most of the boxes we left closed. I found an early 1940s issue of Collier's Weekly I wish I'd kept. The magazine contained an ad for the Lincoln Zephyr. Alas, I put it back where I found it.

We exited the tunnel, closed the heavy door and headed down the canyon, marveling at the tremendous amount of work someone had accomplished, wondering why they had done it, and trying to imagine what had happened to them.

The tunnel has been empty for several years. We may never know to whom the boxes belonged, but it will remain an intriguing conversation point.

News from the President's Desk

By Harry Kawahara

When I first saw the list of PCC employees who chose to retire at the end of June of this year, I was astounded. The list included 87 persons—42 faculty, 31 classified and 14 management. They chose to accept the retirement incentive (golden handshake) which included 75% of a person's last year's salary. For example, if an employee's best year was \$60,000, the bonus



value would be \$45,000.

I understand this money will be in the form of Individual Retirement Accounts distributed over several years. This retirement incentive was

sufficiently attractive for these 87 employees to decide to accept the offer effective on June 30, 2011. The thought of having all of these employees (about 12% of all full-time personnel) retire at the same time is staggering to contemplate.

They represent an enormous amount of experience and institutional memory that is going "out the door." This is clearly a record. This is truly an historic event. Someone calculated that these employees represent more than 2000 years of service at Pasadena City College. PCC has a huge challenge in replacing the work of these good people. Indeed, this is going to be a huge transition period. So what can I say—good luck!

I attended the June Academic Senate

breakfast representing the Retirement Association and welcoming the new retirees. There were a number of faculty members present, and each was asked to share a few words. I was impressed by the caliber of abilities represented in this multi-talented group. Indeed, these are renaissance people. There was Harry Smallenberger, English professor, who is also a fine jazz musician. I recall going to a lecture he gave on the contributions of Jelly Roll

Morton on the world of jazz. Then I listened to Jane Hallinger of the English Division reflect on her days at PCC. Jane and I were active in the Academic Senate (then called the Faculty Senate) and statewide faculty organizations advocating on behalf of community college faculty.

The College is going to miss Jane's energy, creativity, wonderful spirit and her willingness to engage in governance matters. I think Jane should consider running for political office now that she is retired.

PCC and the Engineering and Technology Division will not be the same with Ted James' retirement. He made some entertaining comments about his many years at the college which had all of us in stitches. It was stated that early in his teaching career, he taught a class on the electronic slide rule which tells you how long Ted has been teaching; the slide rule is a dinosaur.

When I looked over the list of classified staff leaving, I was taken aback to think of the valuable experience and institutional memory departing PCC's hallowed halls. To name just a few, Irene Aguilera in Development, Judith Holmes in Visual Arts, John Lindeman, Facilities, Linda Magee in the President's office, Susan Miller, secretary to the VP of Student Services, Barbara Salmon in the Office of Instruction and

Brian Packard of Information Technology, Jitka Hora in the Library, Pat Rees, web producer. The retirement of these classified people leaves huge gaps that will be difficult to fill.

When serving in the Academic Senate Office, we created the Unsung Hero Award in 1987, which is given to the classified employee who did the most to serve the faculty in a given year. It acknowledged that without the support of the diligent classified staff, the college would come to a grinding halt.

Among the management ranks, there are a number of veterans departing who will be difficult to replace. Lisa Sugimoto leaves a gigantic hole since she filled a number of strategic roles, including interim president. Her gracious manner, cheerful disposition and overall competence will be missed.

When talking about upbeat people, Sabah Alquadoomi, enrollment manager, comes to mind along with his analytical skills in management data.

It was always fun to say hello to Sherry Hassan in the C building halls as she scurried to another meeting. And, of course, Melinda Polo in Human Resources who has an enormous trove of information available at her finger tips.

The above comments refer to just a few of the retirees. Indeed, we salute all of these wonderful people and their notable contributions to PCC.

For your interest, listed are the names of retirees and their years of service.

We salute these dedicated and loyal personnel and welcome them to the ranks of the retired as the newest members of the PCC Retirement Association. It is certainly our gain.

Happy 90th Birthday, Marion Murphy

Marion Murphy, one of the key founders of the PCC Retirement Association, celebrated her 90th birthday on July 16, 2011, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Arcadia, along with her family and friends.

Her five children (three sons and two daughters) hosted this special occasion to honor their mother's productive life of service at PCC as English professor, administrator and leader in college governance.

Marion along with four others (Alice Corey,

Leonard Knapp, Mary McGuire and Mildred Wardlow) started the Retirement Association in early 1989 at the urging of the administration and the Board of Trustees.

Marion played a major role in shaping the direction of the Retirement Association and helping to develop the scope and vision of the organization.

Marion continues on the Board of Directors, and her presence provides continuity as we grow and move ahead. Happy 90th to Marion!



The Chamberlains Join London Theater Trip

By Dick Chamberlain

My wife, Carol, and I took our daughter, Cynthia, to London for the PCC Theater in London week led by Amy Ulmer and Joe Sierra . It was, in part, to help Cynthia celebrate her 50th birthday, and that turned out to be a good choice because not only did she have a good time we all did. Fellow retiree Pat Savoie and soon to retire Jane Hallinger and Kathy Rodarte were also part of the tour group.

It was Cynthia's first time in London, and so it was fun to be able show her places we have seen before and to



visit some new places for us.

We went to several art galleries and to Harrods as well as Trafalgar Square, of course. We would have had a tour of Westminster Abbey but when we got there the line looked like it would be several hours long so we opted out of that.

One of the highlights for us was a trip the Globe Theater on Palm Sunday morning where the actors were reciting the King James Version of the Bible. In celebration of the 400th anniversary of this translation, the whole week was devoted to this exercise in recitation, and what little we heard – about 15 minutes of it – was very impressive. On that afternoon, we happened on a Sunday afternoon service at Saint Paul's Cathedral which was also very impressive with choir and organ music that was moving.

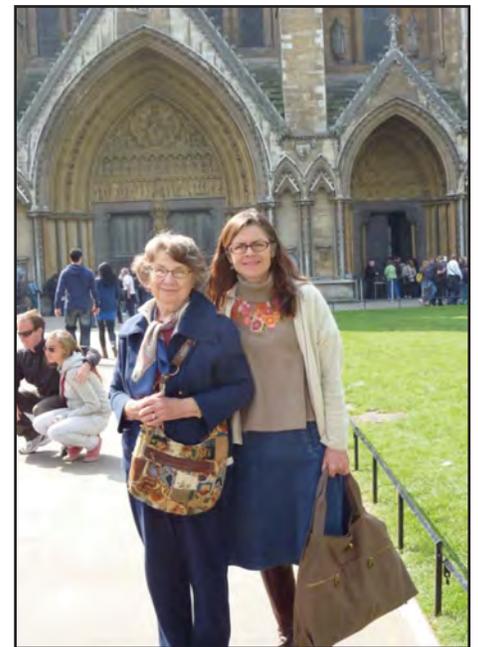
Of course, the point of the trip was to see plays of which we saw four. All were very good but one of the most impressive was "War Horse" in which the horse is played by a life size puppet controlled by actors in such a realistic way that half way through the play you forget that it is a puppet.

In addition to the plays, we had a one-day trip to Dover where we toured Dover Castle and to Canterbury Cath-

edral for another tour.

One side benefit of the trip was that it was just the week before the big wedding of Will and Kate, and it was interesting to see all the preparations that were being made. It made watching the wedding all that much more interesting. The Brits really know how to put on a show!

The one downside of the week was the weather. We went prepared for cold and it was too warm – I regretted not taking any short sleeve shirts. All in all, it was a great trip.



Hollis Finds Serenity and Beauty in the Sierras

By Hollis Stewart

After the extremely heavy snows of the past winter the Sequoia National Park and other Sierra Nevada mountain areas opened later than usual, but some friends and I were fortunate enough to get into two choice camping areas in a five-week period. While many of the sights and sounds of the Sierra are common in many mountain parks, certain characteristics make camping in a particular area more memorable.

On our first excursion, my wife, four friends, and I camped in the Lodgepole Camping area in Sequoia National Park.

Our first week in July arrival was during opening week due to the snow and heavy runoff. Still the campground was great with blue skies, beautiful rivers, bears and lots of ladybugs. We encountered them as we returned to camp from a wonderful hike up a valley east of the campground. At the far end of the trail, we joined several dozens of others enjoying a series of waterfalls pouring down the mountain side with a great rumbling sound and raising a fine mist in the air. As we headed back to our campsite, we rounded a bend, came onto a flat place on the trail in a wooded area and we were amazed at what we saw. There seemed to be a dark cloud in the air, and at first we started to reach

for the insect repellent thinking we were in for a hellish time with mosquitoes. But no, it wasn't a cloud of mosquitoes but rather the migration of hundreds of thousands if not millions of ladybugs. Later when we mentioned this to the rangers, they said that this was a phenomenon that occurs for a few hours or a day sometime each year after the snow melt.

On another day Morro Rock attracted our attention and we climbed up the stairs/walk ways to the high point on this immense granite outcropping that towers over the San Joaquin River deep in the valley below We could see west out to the

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Names, Titles, Departments and Years of Service for Those Who Retired from PCC in 2011

Aguilar, Norman, HVAC Engineer
Facilities Services, 22

Aguilera, Irene J, Resource Specialist
College Advancement, 20

Alquaddoomi, Sabah A, Associate Dean
Enrollment Management, 13

Arndt, Thomas
Intermediate Programmer Analyst,
Management Info Services, 13

Bickley, James B, Professor
Social Sciences, 40

Bilicki, Christine, Professor
Natural Sciences, 21

Brown, Martha Susan, Instructor
Visual Arts & Media Studies, 26

Brown, Theresa, Instructor
Community Education Center, 22

Chang, Yang Shim, Counselor
Counseling, 30

Cody, Robert L, Assistant Dean
Computing Services, 26

Conway, George R, Assistant Professor-
Community Education Center, 7

Craig, Patricia E, Counselor
Counseling, 18

Dewitt Rogers, Johari M, Director
Media Center, 25

Douglas, Velma, Nursing Programs
Director Health Sciences, 21

Eaton, Robert E, Associate Professor
Performing/Communication Arts, 21

Espinoza Hancuff, Cela T, Counselor
Community Education Center, 23

Evans, Jannett
Student Personnel Services Assistant
EOP&S, 22

Garcia, Naomi M, Instructor
Community Education Center, 31

Gillingham, Craig, Assistant Professor
Engineering And Technology, 35

Gossard, Dennis Lee, Instructor/Coach
Kinesiology Health & Athletics, 30

Griffith, Barbara A, Counselor
Counseling, 19

Hallinger, Jane S, Professor
English, 32

Hansen Moller, Derek G, Custodian
Facilities Services, 26

Hassan, Sherry P, Director
Business Services, 32

Hassija, Ligia N, Instructor
Health Sciences, 33

Haynes, Douglas, Division Dean
Engineering and Tech, 33

Heringer, Virginia J, Professor
Languages, 26

Hightower, Minnie J,
Intermediate Clerk I
Degree Transfer Outreach Center, 24

Hinds, Marina, Instructor
Community Education Center, 43

Holmes, Judith P., Secretary II
Visual Arts & Media Studies, 18

Hopson, Titus, Custodian
Facilities Services, 19

Hora, Jitka, Library Technician II
Library, 17

Hunt, Donald E, Instructor
Engineering And Technology, 27

James, Virgil T, Professor
Engineering And Technology, 41

Jerashen, Carolyn T
Buyer/Senior Cashier
College Bookstore, 15

Johnston, Wendie A
Professor
Natural Sciences, 43

Jorif, Ivonne T, Professor
Health Sciences, 31

Keeler, Teresa F, Professor
English, 21

Kritselis, Alexander I, Division Dean
Visual Arts & Media Studies, 24

Larsuel, Louis L, Lead Custodian
Facilities Services, 19

Lindemann, John E, Electrician
Facilities Services, 30

Long, Rochelle
Admissions & Records Clerk III
Admissions And Records, 21

Magee, Linda
Interim Exec. Assistant /Confidential
President's Office, 22

Main, Carl D, Division Dean
Mathematics, 12

Martin, Nicholas O, Associate Professor
Languages, 44

Martin, Victoria L, Instructor
Visual Arts & Media Studies, 9

Mayer, Maryann C, Counselor
Counseling, 33

Mc Guire, Karen E, Professor
English, 33

Michael, Peter A, Director
Police and Safety Services, 5

Miller, Barbara J, Professor
Social Sciences, 44

Miller, Susan M
Administrative Assistant I/Confidential
Student & Learning Services, 28

Mitoma, Dona J
Professor
Library, 21

Names of This Year's Retirees Continued. . .

Moore, Bing, Custodian
Facilities Services, 13

Moore, Jessie M, Professor
Kinesiology Health & Athletics, 38

Owens, Bob R, Instructor/Coach
Kinesiology Health & Athletics, 20

Packard, Brian H
Technician Support Specialist
Computing Services, 26

Pandolfi, Patrick E, Instructor
Engineering And Technology, 30

Pastis, Leah, Intermediate Clerk II
Fiscal Services, 20

Perez, Maritza E
Intermediate Clerk II/Translator
Community Education Center, 30

Polenzani, Elizabeth G, Professor
Business & Computer Technology, 24

Polo, Melinda L, Supervisor
Human Resources, 37

Pottorff, Edward A
Department Laboratory Tech II Art
Visual Arts & Media Studies, 37

Proano-Gomez, Maria, Professor
Languages, 17

Ramey, Margaret B, Associate Dean
Admissions And Records, 9

Rees, Patricia A, Web Producer
External Relations, 9

Reinhartsen, Lee L, Professor
English, 36

Ren, Sharon
Senior Electronic Specialist
Computing Services, 27

Robinson, Willie, Instructor/Coach
Kinesiology Health & Athletics, 40

Rodarte, Kathleen M, Assistant Dean
EOP&S, 31

Rodriguez, Lucas J, Lead Custodian
Facilities Services, 21

Rudisill, Jeff, Assistant Professor
Performing/Communication Arts, 8

Salmon, Barbara A
Acting Admin. Assistant II/Confidential
Instruction, 21

Schmid, Shirley L
Publications Services Assistant
Publications Office, 20

Schramm, William, Assistant Professor
Natural Sciences, 24

Smallenburg, Harry, Assoc. Professor
English, 22

Smith, Gregory K, Associate Professor
Kinesiology Health & Athletics, 27

Smith, Tommie Lee, Custodian
Facilities Services, 27

Stoup, Jo, Instructor
Performing/Communication Arts, 15

Stroud, Duke S, Professor
Performing/Communication Arts, 41

Sugimoto, Lisa A
Interim Vice President
College Advancement, 14

Tschirgi, Theresa L
Computer Support Technician
Computing Services, 32

Valdez, Carolyn E
Senior Clerk/Translator
Community Education Center, 38

Walker, Odessa M, Director
Fiscal Services, 41

Wilcox, Stuart, Interim Vice President
Student & Learning Services, 23

Wildeboer, Linda L, Secretary II
Performing/Communication Arts, 20

Wilson, Lawrence E, Systems Specialist
Management Information Services, 24

Winans, Linda L, Secretary I
EOP&S, 21

Zeuschner, Robert B, Professor
Social Sciences, 21

Social Security, Medicare and Pensions Under Attack

By Hollis Stewart

Once again there is an onslaught directed against the social programs that provide a safety net for every American. These include programs such as Social Security with its retiree benefits as well as benefits for the disabled and for children. Also targeted are Medicare and Medicaid that provide health care for retirees and millions of other low income Americans, as well as government pensions, including CalPERS, and CalSTRS that provide a basic retire-

ment for hundreds of thousands of retired public workers.

It is obvious that the opponents of these programs lack any understanding of economics and what their proposals would do to the economy of the U.S. if benefits were cutoff or shrunk. This would not only hurt the beneficiaries of the programs but the businesses that depend on those customers who frequent their shops and use their services. A cutoff in a basic good level of benefits would also bring eco-

nomie disaster to millions of families as the cost of taking care of older family members, falls with a thud on top of the younger ones who are trying to establish and pay for their own families. Imagine what it would be like if suddenly and unexpectedly your children had to take you in because your benefits were cut and you could no longer live on your own.

Yes, I am aware that the proponents of the cuts always state, in an effort to divide and conquer us, that people who are

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Speak Up for Social Security and Pensions . . .

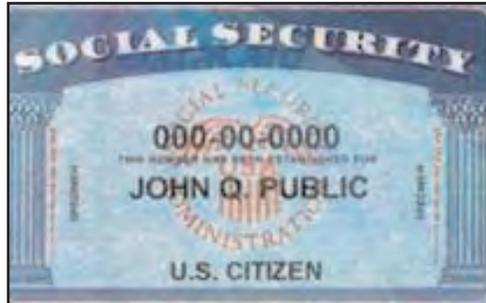
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already receiving benefits will not be harmed, and that these proposals are for the future. Bull feathers! There are already proposals being pushed to put off or further reduce COLA after it has already been trimmed over the past several years.

It has also been proposed that benefits be reduced and the retirement age be raised. Other proposals suggest cutting back on Medicare and/or charging more per month for it. I guess if you are rich, then this is no problem. However, the truth is that most people on SS, Medicare and pensions are not living the Life of Riley, and those living on the bottom tiers of the retired economy fight to make ends meet from month to month. Many of these benefits including Social Security, SSI support for the disabled, children's survivor benefits, unemployment compensation, and of both private and public pensions were part of the immense fight by the generation that fought against the economic nightmare of the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Fortunately in my life I had the privilege, no I must say honor, to meet and talk with two of the great leaders of the movement that won these national programs:

Harry Bridges of the ILWU and Louis Weinstock of the Painters Union. When my father found out that I had met and sat and talked with these two, he was close to tears as he had only known them from afar as supporters/leaders in the movement. What struck me most in the discussions with these men were their descriptions of Americans as hard working, fighting people who toiled incessantly to achieve these



beneficial social programs that we now see threatened by the likes of Rick Perry and Michelle Bachman as well as other like-minded individuals.

What can you do? Contact Congressman Xavier Becerra, local office 1-213-483-1425; Sen. Barbara Boxer, 1-213-894-5000; Sen. Dianne Feinstein, 1-310-914-7300, and other politicians to let them know we want these programs protected and enhanced to benefit the people who depend on them. Rep. Becerra is very

important to contact because he is a member of the newly created Select Committee on Deficit Reduction that is tasked to create a plan to cut the U.S. deficit by \$1.2 trillion.

Speak out in your church, community groups and with your families to make sure that they understand the severity of this situation and how it will affect them. Often young people do not realize that changes in programs such as these could end up knocking the economic props out from under their own families and their futures.

Young people, especially our family members, must realize that when they get old enough, they will want to retire.

If these programs are harmed instead of being made even stronger, they will face a harsh future in old age. If you participate in a Senior Center or senior club, bring out this issue by talking about it. I do that from time to time, and the people appreciate the information.

United we stand divided we fall. Our nation is at a pivotal time in its modern history, and we must protect these programs as good patriots fighting for our birthright. Let's get it done as our parents and grandparents did in the 30s.

Volunteer Tutors Needed in the PCC Writing Center

The Writing Center at PCC is looking for volunteers tutors to supplement what the faculty and writing consultants can offer students. With such a large group of retirees this year, Rob Lee, writing center coordinator, is hoping to lure some of the newly retired into the Writing Center to do some tutoring a few hours a week.

Don't think you have to be faculty to volunteer. If you have good writing and grammar skills, you are welcome to apply.

Lee wants everyone to know that all tutors, even those who are volunteering, have to complete the same application process. That includes a grammar and writing assessment plus a sample tutoring session.

Anyone who is interested in helping out in the center can contact Rob Lee by calling (626) 585-7637 or by e-mailing him at RDLee@pasadena.edu.



Joe Probst

Joe, currently vice-president of the Charter Oak Unified School District Governing Board, is running for re-election. He began as a volunteer serving on PTA boards and School Site Council before becoming a school board member.



Bruce Carter

Bruce Carter finds himself unable to stay away from education and has therefore filed to run for Board of Trustees at Citrus College. On Nov. 8, 2011 voters in Monrovia, Bradbury and parts of Duarte will vote on his candidacy. Please check out his website at www.Carter4Citrus.com.

Retirees Running for Office

Campers Treated to Scenes of Thundering Waterfalls

Continued from Page 5

Central Valley, and looking east, the view of the high peaks of the Sierra Nevada were displayed in front of us. I believe the altitude at the top of Morro Rock was about 8,000 feet and the peaks across the valley were up around 11,000 to 12,000 feet. Needless to say our view was spectacular, and we were lucky

enough to have an absolutely beautiful sunny day. Another day, we descended into limestone caves carved into the granite mountains of Sequoia. It seemed a fitting juxtaposition of experiences, supreme light out of doors and the dark of the cave with the beauty only brought to us through the reflected lighting installed to illuminate the stalactites and stalagmites.

Of course no trip to Sequoia National Park would be complete without walking through at least one grove of the Giant Sequoia trees—not the tallest trees in the world; that honor goes to the Giant Redwoods—but they are the Earth's largest trees/living things in combined weight and height.

The trees are awe inspiring, and as we stood quietly looking at them, a young black bear came wandering down the hill into view, pausing to tear away bark here and there in search of food in the remains of downed trees. If you love the out-of-doors, I would suggest you go to Sequoia National Park and let the wonders of the place fill you with peace. But do take insect repellent—there are plenty of mosquitoes!

Four weeks later, our intrepid group made another trip up into the Sierra Nevada, but this time the destination was Florence Lake where we camped in Jackass Meadows, a National Forest campground.

This camping area, too, had only been open for a few days when we arrived. We were there for the first full week of camping. The heavy snow pack that had covered this area during the winter and the late melt off made this a great trip for us. Florence Lake was full to capacity, and rivers and streams were flowing with a



strong current. There were very few people at the Jackass Meadows Campground where we pitched our tents for five nights of outdoor life. Florence Lake is 7,300 feet above sea level, and we hiked up to over 8,000 feet several times on area trails.

While the campground and Florence Lake are all you could want: beautiful scenery, a great campground, wild flowers, animal life, and no TV, no cell phones, no showers.

However, the real story is getting to Florence Lake on California Highway 198. One member of our group, Gretchen, described it as “the single horse bridal path to hell.” You leave the Central Valley down close to Fresno at about the 280-foot altitude and then drive to 9,000 feet before going down to the 7,300 foot level.

Contrary to her protestations the “bridal path” is a paved road, strictly speaking, one lane wide with turnouts for passing oncoming vehicles and no real turnarounds for several miles at a time unless you have courageous and skilled driver at the wheel.

The last 18 miles of the road takes about 1 1/2 hours driving time (That figures out to 12 miles an hour.) if there is no traffic. However, we met oncoming vehicles and had to back up to a turnout in spots where one side is a granite slab and the other side a steep vertical drop off of hundreds of feet. Since I had grown up in Idaho traveling on mountain roads, this was a ho-hum experience for me, but my passengers weren't comfortable and my driving made them even less so. Finally I slowed down to a crawling pace up and down the “bridal path.” The road aside, I heartily advise a trek to Florence Lake because the wilderness area is enchanting even though we didn't see and bears, but we did see

lots of squirrels, chipmunks, California Blue Jays and other bird life. One of the group, Richard, caught several trout in the stream that ran about 10 yards from our tent.

Nights were chilly. Even in August the overnight cold was probably in the low 40s, so I would advise some warm clothes and a decent sleeping bag or a warm companion to snuggle up with. About seven miles from Jackass Meadows, Mono Hot Springs of-

fers a great place to spend a day or an afternoon soaking in a “tub” and/or getting a massage.

From the Jackass Meadows campground, we hiked up a steep granite wall, difficult but doable, to about an altitude of 8,000 feet where you have a magnificent view overlooking Florence Lake. This is not a natural lake but was created by the erection of a hydro-electric dam by Southern California Edison to feed electricity to Fresno and the Central Valley as part of a chain of dams built in the Sierra Wilderness.

When you are hiking east of the Lake on the John Muir Trail toward Evolution Valley, you will encounter Darwin Peak. You will be struck by the courage and stamina of the early explorers who crossed these mountains on foot or with pack animals following game trails or the paths forged earlier by the native civilizations that called these mountains and valleys home.

One thing I want to emphasize is that if you take a trip into the Sierras, take plenty of insect repellent.

You're Invited

The Retirees' Fall

Mixer

Thursday, Oct. 13

1-4 p.m.

At the Home of

Kathy and Bruce Carter

146 Highland Place

Monrovia, CA 91016

Bessie Shares Details of Her China Trip

By Bessie Radcliff-Darden

Beijing, China was the destination for our tour group of 29 when we left LAX on March 31, 2011. We lost a day by crossing the date line from east to west and gained it back by flying from China to the U. S. Everyone was very tired from the 14-hour flight so we relaxed in the hotel for the rest of the day and evening.

Our first stop was a jade factory. The jewelry was beautiful, but it was very expensive. Needless to say I only purchased a small bracelet.

Next we were on our way to the legendary "Great Wall." This was one of my favorite sites. I walked two miles on the wall, which was not an easy task, but I loved every moment of it. I could not believe that I was actually walking on one of the great wonders of the world. It was an awesome experience. The wall spans 5,600 kilometers and can be seen from outer space according to Neil Armstrong.

Our official tour did not include Beijing, 's Olympic village built for the 2008 Olympics, but we were able to go because this particular weekend was a holiday and the village was open to the public. The village was all aglow, the same as it was during the Olympics. It was simply beautiful.

The next day we were off to Tiananmen Square, the world's largest public square. It was extremely crowded. I don't know whether the People of China get to see many African Americans or not, but it seemed as though the people were more interested in observing us than they were in observing the sites. Our tour guide explained to us that they do not see many African Americans as tourists. Those that they see are usually celebrities. I don't know if they thought I was a celebrity, but I was asked to take pictures with so many Chinese women that I didn't know whether to be insulted or honored. We also toured the Forbidden City and the Royal Summer Palace with lunch consisting of China's famous Peking duck and all of the trimmings.

Before leaving Beijing for Xian, we were able to stroll through the gardens of the Royal summer Palace. Our starting location in Xian was at the Ancient Silk Road where we toured a silk factory. We were able to see



how the silk worms are cultivated and how they produce the silk for those lovely garments. Xian was also the capital belonging to 11 ancient dynasties in Chinese history. It is a city rich with over 5,000 years of culture and history

The fifth day of our trip included an excursion to see the Terra-cotta warriors and horses. They have been protecting the Qin Emperor in the afterlife for more than 2,000 years. This excavation site and museum is unbelievable. We were privileged to see the excavation in progress. Learning how this site was discovered is amazing. A farmer was digging a well, and he dug up a warrior head. He knew that he had discovered something very valuable to China and to the world.

The warriors and horses are so well preserved. One can see how much time and skill has gone into making sure that every piece of terra-cotta is kept in the original form. Each evening when the museum closes the excavators come and begin their tedious work of matching and placing each piece of the terra-cotta with the correct warrior and horse. It is really something to see and appreciate how the Chinese people are preserving their history.

After spending several hours at the excavation site, we headed back into town and

drove over the 600- year-old City Wall. Later we had dinner at the Shaanxi Grand Opera House Xi'an China and saw a wonderful stage production given by the Tang-Dynasty Palace Music and Dancers.

We departed Xian and flew to Shanghai, the largest city in China and one of the largest metropolitan areas in the world, with over 20 million people. In the evening we took a cruise on the Huangpu River and enjoyed the glamorous views of Shanghai.

We explored Shanghai, China's economic and financial capital. This is a very fast paced city. The Cheng Huang Temple, the People's Square and the Waterfront Bund and a silk carpet factory were also part of this Shanghai tour. The carpets were exquisite, and yes, I wanted to bring them home. I guess that will have to happen on another trip.

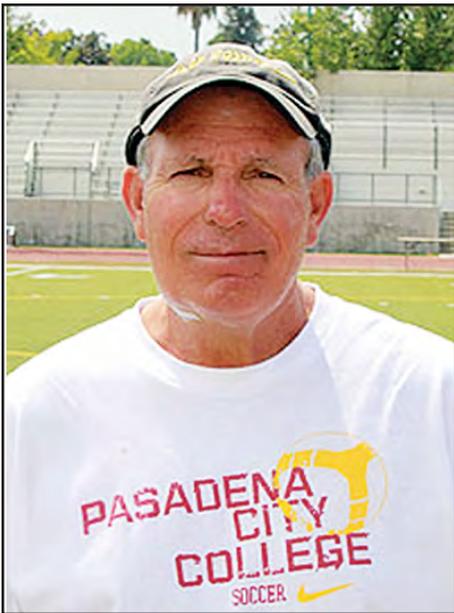
That afternoon we took a coach bus from Shanghai to Suzhou the "Venice of the Orient," an ancient town interlaced by numerous canals. Our tour included the Linger Garden and the Grand Canal.

Our next stop was Zhejiang. We got to see the cultural relics of Hangzhou that have been restored. They are now known as one of the famous ancient capitals of China. Before leaving Hangzhou, we toured and tasted the famous Longjing Tea at Meiwu. On our way back from Shanghai, we made a stop in the Water town – Xitang.

Before flying from Shanghai, we took a city tour to the Pudong New Developed area and a ride on the Maglev, the world's fastest train. Then it was back to the airport to fly to Hong Kong where we spent a leisurely day.

Our time in Hong Kong consisted of factory (much too over priced). Then it was back to the hotel to prepare for our long flight back to LAX the next morning. I was not impressed with Hong Kong, maybe because it reminded me of just another place designed for the rich and famous.

I truly enjoyed my tour of the cities in China. The history that I was privileged to witness was amazing and unforgettable. The Great Wall, the Terra-cotta warriors and horses, the Forbidden City, the Olympic Village, Tiananmen Square, the Royal Square and many other places was so worth the time, the sore muscles in my legs from all the stair climbing and the price. I will never forget it.



Warren Altounian Worked With Men's and Women's Soccer

Warren Altounian, coach for PCC soccer program passed away on Friday, April 22. Coach Altounian worked on campus for 12 years with the Men's and Women's Lancer soccer program. He also taught Adaptive Physical Eds at John Muir High School. Warren was dedicated to academics and saw it as the path to success for all of his students and players.

Warren was a graduate of Pasadena High School, attended PCC and was a member of the football team in the late 60s. Additionally, his son Greg and daughter Alexis both attended PCC. Both of his children had the opportunity and privilege of playing for their father on the Lancer team.

In 2008 his son became a volunteer assistant coach and his daughter is a part-time instructor in the Social Sciences Division.

Please Donate

The Retirees' Association needs more money in the scholarship fund, and we depend on our members to help. Whenever you start feeling generous, pick up a pen and write a check or call the PCC foundation and put the donation on your credit card. It's tax deductible.

Retirement Association Receives Special Award for Exemplary Service to PCC

By Harry Kawahara

The Retirement Association was honored with the Campus Special Recognition Award for its contributions to Pasadena City College at the 86th Annual Commencement on June 17.

The award is bestowed on individuals and organizations in recognition of exemplary service rendered to the college.

The award is granted in acknowledgment of the support given by the Association and its members to PCC, its students and staff, since 1989. Over the years the Retirement Association has given thousands of dollars for student scholarships.

I was present at the commencement and received the award on behalf of the PCCRA.

By way of interest, following are some

past recipients of the award:

Irvin Lewis (1987), Mildred Wardlow (1990), Leonard Knapp (1991), Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association (1991), Harold Salisbury (1992), Harold Floyd (1993), Gene Miller (1994), Jack Scott (1995), Alice Corey (1996), Bill Goldmann (1997), PCC Parent-Teacher-Student Association (1997), Suzanne Bravender (1999), Bruce Carter (2001), Keith Miller (2002), Ernestine Moore (2003), The Association of Black Employees (2003), Alan Lamson (2004), PCC Flea Market Board of Directors (2005), Wendie Johnston (2007), Kay Dablow (2008), Huntington Memorial Hospital (2008), Virginia Dedeaux (2009), Ellen Ligons (2010), and the Hutt-Patterson Charitable Foundation (2010).

Bob Levis Salutes His Old Friend

Bob Levis, a colleague and friend of John Christopher, mailed a copy of a tribute he wrote to John after his death in February of 2010. For some reason, the letter spent months traveling from department to department at the college until it was finally delivered to the retirees' mailbox two weeks ago. Although John passed away more than a year ago, we thought this slightly shortened piece was important to include.

Fifty years ago, in 1960, I was hired by Pasadena City College to teach philosophy. And since John Christopher was already there as a philosophy teacher, we were more or less destined to become acquainted.

My first memory of realizing that John was someone very special occurred at a faculty meeting in Harbeson Hall. Sylvie, my wife, turned to me and said, "Now there is a man who knows how to express himself clearly!" At that time she didn't know that he was a philosopher.

Understandably after 50 years, the memories of my association with John are very rich. First there were the times in the 60s when he brought joy into our department parties with his vigorous playing of pop music on the piano. Second, there was the special "chuckle" that would come out of him over the years when he was playing on his initials "JC." I would ask "How does it feel to be able to walk on water?" (But he was Christ-like, don't you think?)

Third, there were the many walks we took together at Cal Tech where I specifically remember one time sitting on a bench and discussing the nature of the soul and its status in

the afterlife. Fourth, there were our visits to the Benedictine Priory over in Valleyermo to see Father Winance, one of my teachers at Claremont Graduate School. We would attend Mass, have lunch and go for walks. The reverence John showed for Father Winance and the other monks was beautiful.

Fifth, there were the lunches with my friend, Stan Taylor. (I felt quite fortunate to witness, firsthand how Stan, a professed atheist, could become close friends with a devout Christian, John. Even though as one can imagine, they had many differences, I felt they truly listened to and respected each other.

Sixth—The Green Street Philosophers. This group began in the early 90s and is now meeting twice a month at the Green Street restaurant. Needless to say, the word Philosophers in the name they chose for themselves was in no small part due to the presence and influence of John.

In the late 60s and early 70s, before John became our department chairman, we would sometimes combine our Introductory Philosophy Classes in a large room. And though he would naturally assume responsibility for philosophers like Aristotle and St. Thomas, and I for Descartes and Nietzsche, the important thing was that we each would always allow time at the end of our presentations for a reply and discussion with students.

I often described John as a "once born" Jesuit. He was born into the Catholic Church, served as an Alter Boy, went to Catholic schools and remained faithful to St. Tomas and Aristotle. Sylvie and I miss him deeply!

In Memoriam

John Gregory Passes Away After a Long Career

John F. Gregory passed away peacefully at his Los Angeles home early Monday morning, May 9. By his side was his wife of 53 years, Wanda Gregory. Even after John suffered his first devastating stroke, he managed to join friends and colleagues at the retirees' mixer and the Visual Arts annual Christmas party. He was a hard man to keep down.

He was the son of the late Helen (Nicolopoulos) Kanellis, his beloved mother and the late Fred Panopoulos. He was very proud to be the first grandchild of John and Vasilo Nicolopoulos of Lowell, MA. In addition to Wanda, he is survived by a large and loving family as well as countless friends. .

John F. Gregory, Ph.D. was Professor Emeritus at PCC where he was able to combine his two passions: higher education and commercial/public broadcasting. A true lover of the arts, John won

two Emmys for his work at KABC-TV. He was former head of The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, and he was former General Manager and Editorial News Director of KPCC-FM, the college's national public radio station. He developed KPCC from a fledgling radio station for students into a station which Billboard cited as the best educational radio station in the country. He was passionate about serving and was on the boards of many art related organizations.

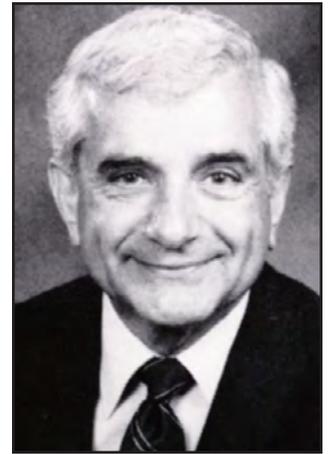
John was exceptionally proud of his Greek heritage and served on the board of the Greek Heritage Society where he was instrumental in producing two award winning documentaries. John was many things – witty, urbane, dashing, and debonair, a bit of a ham and snarky to the core.

His gift was that he gave his entire attention, as well as years of experience,

to all in his company. You always knew that you would be pleasantly engaged, entertained and educated by John and his loving spirit. He

had the ability to intersperse humor and sarcasm throughout a discussion of the important and relevant issues of life. Through education and love, his aim was always to improve one's self, one's community and, if possible, the world.

His friends and colleagues will miss this wonderfully charming man who meant so much to so many.



Family, Friends and Former Students Bid A Fond Farewell to Sam Soghomonian

Sam Soghomonian, 88, entered that great faculty lounge in the sky on June 10, 2011. He was a master educator for 48 years. He retired as a professor in the Social Sciences Division.

Sam was foreman of the 1970 L.A. County Grand Jury, president of the California Teachers' Association, Southern Section, on the executive board of the



National Education Association, and trustee of Mayfield High School. He was the first man to join the Pasadena League of

Women Voters, served as president of the Altadena Exchange Club, president of the Board of Trustees of the Altadena Public Library, and he volunteered at the Huntington Collection of the Huntington Memorial Hospital.

Sam and Maria moved to Tucson in 2007 to join their daughters. Sam is survived by his wife of 58 years, Maria; daughters Mia Barnett (John) and Michelle Branham (Mark); grandchildren Sarkis, Lauren and Charlie Barnett.

Two of Sam's former students shared memories of their former teacher on the Pasadena Star News website. "Mr. Soghomonian was one of the best teachers I ever had (Eliot, early 1960s), and I was always meaning to tell him that.

He promised that if a student made it through his class without any "misdeemeanors" he would stand on his hands for us. I managed to accomplish that, but I was too shy to tell him and collect on

the promise! His lessons endured: I've written 28 books to date and have never once missed a deadline, thanks at least in part, I'm sure, to what he taught us. I've always been so grateful." *Sally Warner (Altadena, CA)*

Susan Foster of Pasadena wrote: "The great faculty lounge in the sky is in for a real treat. Sam Soghomonian ... oh, my ...to say he was the best teacher is such an understatement.

He was one of those very rare teachers who taught us more than "the facts" or "information" — he encouraged us to think for ourselves and to develop considered opinions, remaining open to other points of view.

What a gift this man gave his students, and I am very grateful to have been one of them."

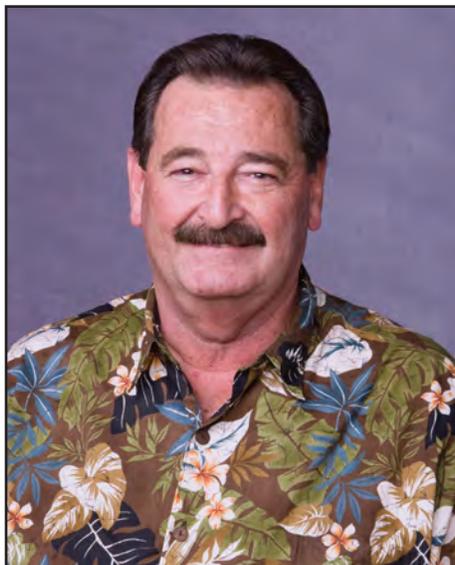
The family wishes to thank the many friends and former students who have expressed their love during Sam's illness.

McKee Dies One Year After He Retired

Rich McKee, a chemistry professor who became a crusader for open government, died from an apparent heart attack at the age of 62. His mission was to file lawsuits against government bodies and public agencies that violated the Brown Act—the open meeting law that requires those bodies to hold open meetings so that the public can comment.

Rich “took to court and won more open government lawsuits than any member of the State Bar of California,” according to Terry Francke, general counsel for Californians Aware, the advocacy group that McKee co-founded with him and his daughter, Emily, in an L.A. Times obituary on McKee.

McKee shared his passion with students in many classes at PCC over the years. When he spoke to journalism classes, he always emphasized the importance of open and transparent government. He told students if the government officials or those who work for the government can block public access to information, something is wrong. “It is the reporters’ job to ensure that government officials—elected



or appointed do not conduct the public’s business behind closed doors.”

McKee retired from PCC just last year, but he had planned to do so earlier. Although he has won the majority of lawsuits he has filed for violations of the Brown Act, California Public Records Act and the 1st Amendment, he lost one to the

Orange Unified School District. His wages were garnished and a lien was placed on his house. The money he had saved for retirement had to be used to cover the \$80,000 judgment.

Although McKee will no longer be leading the crusade for open government, Californians Aware and others will be holding steady to the course he set.

Californians Aware has created a fund in his name to enable it to continue his work by going to court if necessary. “Rich McKee was a tireless champion for open government and the right of the public to participate in the government they created,” said CalAware President Dennis Winston, a Los Angeles attorney who successfully represented McKee in several actions adding important precedents to the laws of open meetings and public records. “The Rich McKee Memorial Fund will enable CalAware to carry on Rich’s commitment for the benefit of every citizen of California.”

“It was Rich’s vision that once this program is sufficiently funded, it will be self-sustaining for years to come.”

Governor Signs Law Named for Richard McKee; Legislation Honors ‘Open Government’ Crusader

The late Richard P. McKee has his name on the new law that was just signed by Gov. Jerry Brown, bringing transparency to the files of foundations and other nonprofit “auxiliary organizations” allied to the state’s public colleges and universities.

The McKee Act, given that name by its author, Sen. Leland Yee (D-San Francisco) and its sponsor, the California Newspaper Publishers Association, is a fitting tribute for a man whose lifetime career was in community college teaching, who policed his and other campuses for sunshine compliance.

After three years of legislative back and forth, Gov. Brown signed Senate Bill 8, subjecting foundations, bookstores and other auxiliary organizations throughout California’s public university systems and community colleges to open records requests.

The Richard McKee Transparency Act of 2011 was authored by state Sen. Leland Yee. Adam Keigwin, Yee’s chief of staff, said the bill started as a way to clarify the role “quasi-public” auxiliary organizations had under open records laws.

Keigwin said the law clarifies that the public

can obtain correspondence, emails, letters, financial statements and contracts from foundations and auxiliary organizations at the University of California, California State University and the state’s community colleges.

The legislation does, however, allow foundation donors to remain anonymous unless they receive gifts from the school worth more than \$2,500. Donors can also become public if they enter into a no-bid contract with the school within five years of a donation or if they attempt to influence curriculum or operations.

The bill has its roots in 2009 legislation that passed overwhelmingly, only to be vetoed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Yee revised and resubmitted the bill the following year addressing concerns brought up by the governor, namely the privacy of anonymous donors. The changes allowed anonymous donations unless donors received gifts from the school worth more than \$500 for their contribution.

Despite similar bipartisan support in the senate, Schwarzenegger again rejected the bill. With a new governor in place this year, SB

8 was an opportunity to try again.

“We took a little bit different approach this year by creating essentially a mini public records act in the education code,” said Jim Ewert, general counsel for the California Newspaper Publishers Association and a supporter of the Ewert said one of the main changes was increasing the acceptable value of gifts an anonymous donor may receive to \$2,500.

“Foundations only comprise about a third of the total number of auxiliaries on CSU campuses,” Ewert said, adding “bookstores, agreements between student body organizations, vendors, parking concerns, arena developments and vendors,” to the list of information now open to public records requests.

Over the three years SB 8 and the two preceding bills were trying to address the issue, there was no shortage of controversy involving auxiliaries.

The legislation does not go into effect until Jan. 1, though Yee is urging UC, CSU and community colleges to begin complying with requests immediately.



Edith Pulley Passed Away On March 31

Edith Pulley passed away on March 31, 2011. Edith began her career at PCC in 1968, retiring from the office of Extended Instruction in January of 2000 where she had served as an Extended Instruction Assistant. Everyone who visited that office knew Edith. She was always there to help and offer word of advice. People, who came in grumbling and out of sorts, would leave a lot happier after their encounter with Edith. She always had a smile on her face and never seemed ruffled by anyone or anything.

Edith was born in Boyd, Maryland but lived and worked in Pasadena for over 65 years.

She is survived by her two children, Rachelle Pulley and Michael Pulley; three grandchildren and one great grandchild. Edith will be well remembered by all of us who knew her as a gentle, soft-spoken person with beautiful roses on her desk that she picked from her own garden.

Melvin Mayfield Founded the Motorcycle Repair Program

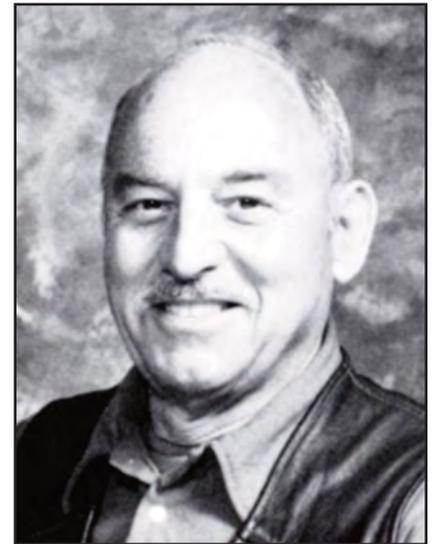
We were saddened to learn of the passing of retired Engineering and Technology faculty member Melvin L. Mayfield on May 11, 2011; he was 88.

Mel started the Motorcycle Mechanics program and taught from 1974 for many years at the campus on North Lake near Washington in northwest Pasadena. The program later moved to the Community Skills Center on Del Mar Boulevard. Mel was a very patient faculty member to all his students and made himself available to students who needed the “extra” time to understand the lessons presented in the technical motorcycle repair and maintenance program.

His colleague Wayne Houlihan, current Automotive Assistant professor and former motorcycle repair instructor who mentored under Mel, said he gave his best for the students and prepared true professionals for the industry. His former students are now prominent employees of International motorcycle corporations such as

Honda and Suzuki.

Mel retired June 17, 1988. He was married to his wife Eunice for 68 years and resided in her family’s house in Alhambra built in the early 1920s. Mel and Eunice regularly attended the Engineering and Technology awards assembly and the Management Holiday party held on the campus.



Patsy Mark Taught for 32 Years



Patsy “Patti” Mark passed away on Aug. 28, 2011 at the age of 87. Patti spent 32 years teaching business classes at PCC, and she touched the lives of hundreds of students.

Those who worked with Patti said that she had a wonderful smile that always lit up a room.

Patti loved getting together with friends and playing bridge, and always appreciated a good joke.

She enjoyed her membership in the Women’s City Club of Pasadena and was a devoted member of the Church of the Lighted Window in LaCanada. Her husband, Lee Moyne Mark, passed away in 1982.

If you have noticed that some of the obituaries in this section of the newsletter are a lot longer than others, it is because some friends and family members inform the college and the retirees’ group about the death.

So often when retirees pass away, we are given a name with very little other information. Although we try to come

up with additional facts, sometimes we don’t find out for months and then no information is available.

If you see an obituary in the paper or you attend services for a colleague, please keep us in mind and send the information to Mikki Bolliger/ the Retirees’ Association at Pasadena City College.

Bruce and Kathy Carter Visit China With Jack and Leuceta Scott

Last October Bruce and Kathy Carter spent a week in China with Jack and Leuceta Scott. They visited a few tourist sites in Shanghai and Hangzhou, but the main purpose was to introduce Jack to educators in the Shanghai area.



They met with the Assistant Director of the Shanghai Municipal Education Commission in charge of foreign exchange programs and discussed common educational goals.

After another meeting with the president of Shanghai Normal University they crossed Hangzhou Bay to Ningbo,

one of the largest ports in the world. At Ningbo they were hosted by President Su of Ningbo Polytechnic University and enjoyed a lavish hotel with an incredible restaurant.

They discussed possible joint programs between California Community Colleges and colleges in the higher vocational education college system in China.

It was a quick trip, but one that opened up some interesting possibilities for collaboration between colleges in California and China.

Retirees Planning Holiday Excursion to Newport Boat Parade

The PCC Retirees' Association is planning a holiday excursion to the 103rd Annual Newport Beach Boat Parade on Thursday, Dec. 15. Participants will have a chance to view beautifully decorated yachts, boats, kayaks and canoes as they sail along in the harbor. The retirees' group will actually be viewing the parade from one of the boats.

Many of the yachts have animated scenes with music. Some participants have spent as much as \$50,000 decking out their boats for the parade.

The Newport Beach Boat Parade was selected as one of the top 10 holiday happenings in the nation by the New York Times. If you are interested in joining the fun, you have to decide quickly because seats are limited. The cost will be \$75 per person. That includes the boat tour and the bus. (A meal is not included in the price.) Additional information, along with phone numbers for making reservations, will be mailed to you as soon as details are finalized.

Board of Directors for 2010

Joseph Barnes
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PCC Administration Expands Its Ranks

PCC started the school year with five new vice presidents and a general counsel after the board of trustees approved the appointment of six new top administrative positions.

Richard van Pelt, a familiar face on campus, has been named vice president of Administrative Services. Van Pelt has been serving in an interim role in that position for two years. Robert Miller, who has been serving as dean of Educational Services, received a promotion to vice president of Educational Services.

Dr. Benedict Lastimado will take over as vice president of Human Resources. Lastimado's last position was assistant vice chancellor of Human Resources and Labor Relations for the University of California, Merced.

For the first time, PCC will have a vice president coordinating all Information Technology. Dwayne Cable, who most recently was vice president of Information Technology for Joliet Junior College, will now be in charge of all campus technology. Dr. Richard Bell will head Student and Learning Services on the campus. Bell's most recent position was the director of Extended Learning at Antelope Valley College.

A general counsel has also been added to the administration with the appointment of Gail Cooper. She practiced law in Glendale at Cooper-Folb Law Offices where she was the sole practitioner specializing in all aspects of litigation in federal and state courts.

Donate to the Retirees' Scholarship Fund

**PCC Retirees' Association
1570 E. Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91106**