

Staying Connected

PCC Retirees Association

March 2011

Tetons Provide Awesome Scenery and a Grand Adventure for Patricia Staub

By Patricia Staub

For many years there was an antique card/memento shop in Sierra Madre owned by an elderly Scandinavian woman. I used to browse through the shop on weekend days and often enjoyed a brief conversation with the owner. On one occasion, she and I started talking about beautiful spots we had visited throughout the world. She happened to mention the Grand Teton Mountains in Northwestern Wyoming. I was thrilled that she knew about the Tetons as they have and continue to be my favorite magical and mystical re-treat.

She volunteered that she and her husband (deceased) had, for years, visited the Grand Teton National Park in September to see the changing leaves of the Aspen trees. I was immediately entranced as my trips to the Tetons had been restricted to summer camp trips and one winter cross-country skiing trip. Thus, I made a mental commitment that when I retired, I would get to the Tetons in the fall to see those Aspen trees. And in September of 2010, I made that trip.

My dear friend Li, who has been one of my best friends since graduate school, said she would like to join me for the trip. She lives in Austin, Texas. On Sept. 22, the two of us met in Salt Lake City, Utah.

From there we boarded a puddle jumper and flew into the little tourist town of Jackson, Wyoming. I must note that my friend Li has NEVER before visited a national park nor has she ever visited the beautiful state of Wyoming (my mother's home state, by the way).

When Li disembarked from our little plane and viewed the landscape, the BLUE, BLUE skies, the white billowy clouds, she was wordless. She said, "I can't believe this!" (Remember, she is a city girl, born and raised in New York City).

We rented a car and drove into the little town of Jackson — quite the western tourist town, but not so crowded or unmanageable when you go in September. After a few stops for vital necessities like allergy drugs and Vitamin Cs, we were on our way into the Park.

We had reservations at Jenny Lake Lodge. Our cabin/suite was delightful. It had all the amenities, but such an adorable rustic, log-cabin charm. We had a gorgeous view of the Grand Tetons from our living room window. We spent our days driving up and down the Park roads and simply "inhaling" the beauty of all the yellow, orange, red leaves back dropped by the majestic Tetons. How could I possibly describe that beauty?

After two-plus hours on the horse, I didn't become a cow girl, but I did walk like one.) We took the tram car to the top of one of the ski slopes. Once on top, we got to view hang-gliders...close-up...taking off for their freeing flights. I very much wanted to try hang-gliding, but think my time has passed for that adventure.

We drove into Yellowstone National Park one day so Li could see Old Faithful. It once again lived up to its name, "old faithful," treating us to "its show" on schedule.

Wildlife: Li saw moose, black bear up close and personal, but no bison this trip!

I was so grateful to the Scandinavian shop-owner who first put the idea to travel to the Tetons in the autumn into my head, all those years ago! What splendor! And all the summer campers and tourists are gone. Retirement is GOOD!

Osher Can Ensure Scholarships in Perpetuity

An exceptional opportunity to raise scholarships for PCC students has come to our attention. In using this opportunity, our retirees are able to expand the impact of our scholarship contributions.

Let me explain The Bernard Osher Foundation pledged \$25 million to the California Community Colleges with a challenge of matching 50 cents for every dollar raised by the colleges. For example, a gift of \$13,334, combined with Osher match dollars (\$13,334+\$6,667) would result in a total gift of \$20,000, sufficient to generate one full-time scholarship of \$1,000 per year.

This would be in perpetuity, which, of course, means forever and ever. We are pleased to report that PCC has \$696,435 (71%) of its matching goal set up by the Osher Challenge of \$979,577. We must raise the balance of the Osher Challenge by June 2011. Time is short, so we need quick action by our PCC supporters.

So far, our retirees have pledged \$9,000. Dr. Lisa Sugimoto, vice president of College Advancement, pleasantly surprised us recently with a most generous pledge of \$5,000 of her own money to give us a substantial boost in our scholarship drive. Several retirees' board members have also committed \$1,000 each to the effort. So we are well on our way to fund at least one scholarship. However, it is our sincere hope that we can fund several of these Osher Foundation scholarships for our students. Amazingly, these scholarships will be in perpetuity.

We know that tuition is increasing due to reduced state revenues. Obviously, it has become more and more expensive to pursue higher education. We know that textbooks are ridiculously high. Our students desperately need financial assistance.

The Osher Challenge is a wonderful means to provide an all-important financial boost for our students. When you give generously to this extraordinary opportunity, it not only supports our students, but it is an investment in our nation's future.

In these difficult economic times, the importance of education is even more pronounced. As a group, adults with college degrees, have an unemployment rate of 5%, steady incomes, and relatively stable families. Adults without a high school education, by contrast, face an unemployment rate of over 15% and declining incomes.

Harvard sociologist, Richard Putnam, reports that we are becoming two societies, two Americas. There is a deepening class divide. Education is becoming the key discriminate in American life. As persons who worked at Pasadena City College, we are very aware of the critical role education plays in our society.

Most Americans accept inequality in our economy as long as the ladder of opportunity is accessible to anyone who wants to work hard. The best way for America to reclaim its self-image as a land of opportunity is to ensure that every young person has access to a decent education.

This is precisely why it is vital that we support the Osher scholarship challenge. Again, the beauty of this special fund is that it perpetuates itself, forever. That has to make it a most attractive opportunity.

Retirees Invited to Join Trips to Italy and Ireland

Merano, Italy

For people who love the idea of spending time at a first-class Spa in the mountainous wine region of Merano, Italy, and those who want to explore various facets of writing, this is a trip designed just for you.

The workshops and discussions will be led by three PCC faculty members. Jane Hallinger will present a workshop for people who wish to develop a personal history through essays to give to their children as memories of their lives. (With the age of technology, documents such as personal letters are rare as a form of family history, so the sessions are designed to reestablish this form of memories). Those who participate in this biographical workshop, need no prior writing experience.

Mick Curran will outline the process of film writing. The sessions are designed for enjoyment of the process. Jane will also present a workshop on writing poetry. Bernie DePalois will provide personal sessions with participants who are working on or wish to begin a novel.

Each evening will feature an Italian film presented by Nick and Jane after the gourmand experience of dinner. Afternoons and evenings will also provide time for enjoying the spa and pools. The week will begin on June 25.

All breakfasts and dinners are included in the price of the workshops. A reduced price is available for mate or friend who just wants to relax and enjoy the spa and films. After the workshop week, an optional week touring in Italy is available at an additional cost.

For more detailed information and various pricings, call Modern Travel Service at 818 -247-5260. The travel week following the Spa workshops is also available for people who only want to do the travel portion.

Theatre in Ireland

A number of you over the years have joined professors of the English Division on Theatre trips to Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon, London, New York and Ireland. This summer Jane Hallinger and Chris McCabe will be off to the land of Erie for a week at the popular Galway Art's Festival. An idyllic city on the stunning west coast of Ireland, Galway offers a week of music, theatre, street performances of the best of Irish tradition and new voices. And retirees are invited once again.

The excursion will leave Los Angeles (air fare included) on July 13 and return July 21. We will be staying at the Imperial Hotel in the center of Galway to provide an easy walk to numerous venues. Opening and closing dinners as well as group performances will give an opportunity for the conversational enjoyment that has always been a hallmark of our theatre trips. Participants will also have ample free time to choose additional plays and music performances.

Because of the beauty of this area, we plan several day excursions to the Aran Islands and the scenic coastline, featuring the famed Cliffs of Moher.

Further details are on the English Division home page under Galway. You may view the general bios of Chris and Jane and tap on the icon "Celtic Tours" which will take you to view the daily itinerary and give you specifics on booking the trip. If you have questions or you don't have access to a computer, you can call Chris at 626-585-3190 or Jane at 636-585-7424. We can also send you a flyer if you wish. If you've visited Ireland, you know the warmth of the Irish that draws in visitors and makes the adage true that one visit is never enough.

How's Retirement Treating You?

By Mikki Bolliger

How many times have you heard people who are getting ready to retire say something like this — "When I retire, I want to travel and spend time with my family." Maybe you even said it too. It sure sounded like a good plan when you still had to show up for work at the college every day, and you were counting the hours until you didn't have to set that alarm clock anymore. But when you're looking at retirement from the work side, a life of leisure looks pretty darn good. However, when you're on the other side looking back, sometimes retirement is not as fulfilling as you thought it would be.

Some of us manage a trip or two before we realize that we don't like being gone from home all the time. Traveling can be educational and fun, but it is also expensive. So if you have to curtail your travel, what do you do now? Oh yes, spend time with the family. That would be nice too, but they're all working while you're at home wondering what to do next.

You may actually be a little bored, but you wouldn't admit that to a soul. Not working is supposed to be great.

You just have to admit that maybe there are things about working that you miss—being around people and getting out of your pajamas before noon. That's when a new plan starts to form. How about volunteering somewhere? At first you push the thought out of your head. Why would I want to commit to a schedule again? But then you realize you still have a lot to offer, and you don't like staying home all the time.

You start to think about it more seriously, but what would you do? You have to find a fun place to volunteer that won't make you feel like you're back at work. A dilemma yes, but it is a nice one to have. There are literally hundreds of organizations looking for volunteers. And there is one that is perfect for the skills that you have.

This is where this newsletter comes in. Starting with this issue, we will be featuring different places where some of our retirees are volunteering. In subsequent editions, we will focus on finding the various organizations in need of volunteers. So if you're feeling a need for a change of pace, the answer may be right at your fingertips.

Looking for Something Fun and Fulfilling? Docents at the Autry Believe They've Found the Best Place

By Mikki Bolliger

Since I retired from teaching at PCC I can honestly say I have never been bored. However, one year into retirement, I realized there was definitely something missing in my life I finally figure out that I missed the students and talking to adults other than family. I certainly didn't lack for companionship. My husband is retired, and he is home. My mother lives with us, and my three grandchildren are at our house almost every day. But I needed something more.

I wasn't sure what I wanted to do but I knew I needed something more stimulating. That's when the thought of volunteering started to germinate in my brain. The problem was trying to find some place that would fit my needs. That meant that the work had to be enjoyable and challenging, and I had to be able to choose my days and how often I wanted to work. And of course, I had to find a place that was a good fit for me.

I started thinking about places I like to visit regularly. Hmmmm—museums fit that bill. Now I had to decide which one. The Autry Museum came to mind immediately. I love history, and I particularly like the museum's focus on the West. (After all, I grew up with all those cowboys on TV and in the movies.) Although I have read a lot about the history of the old West, I knew I had a whole lot more to learn. So that sounded like a good option to explore.

The next day, I visited The Autry, and learned that a new docent class was starting in just a few weeks. I thought about it for a few days and signed up. The classes met on Mondays from the end of June through the middle of September. Historians, authors and curators spoke to the new class of docents, sharing stories and details that most of us had never learned in school. We often met in the museum and heard stories behind many of the artifacts on display. We were immersed in the history of the West, and it was wonderful.

As graduation day approached, I was getting nervous about giving my first tour. After all, I was outside of my element, and I wondered if I would be able to actually talk with authority about the things I had learned. Luckily, the docents don't just get thrown into touring. You can shadow other docents until you feel comfortable enough to tour. I shadowed for two days, and then I decided it was time to jump in.

Tuesday through Friday mornings, the museum is filled with school groups ranging from kindergarten through high school and the docents leading them through the exhibits. Many of the children on the tours have never even been to a museum, so they are usually wide eyed and eager to see what this place is all about. Because there is no set pattern for touring, the docents can pick any route they choose. You never get bored because you can focus on different sections of the museum when you want a change of pace. Docents who don't want to work with school groups can tour families and adults on the weekends or when groups request afternoon tours.

Before I started volunteering at The Autry, I had never touched a buffalo hide or run my hands over a beaver pelt. Although I've read about sparking fires with flint and a piece of steel, I had never done that either. (You're right, I'm not a camper.) But now I do all of those things every week. Docents are required to work a minimum of one day a week, but some work two or three. It is really up to the individual. Although I am only scheduled to tour one day, I am there a lot more than that. There is always something going on with the changing exhibits, continuing education opportunities, field trips and the once-a-month docent potlucks. Oh, did I mention the parties?

Being a docent is definitely fun, and just like at the college, unexpected things happen that make life amusing. When I was touring a group of third graders one morning, the teacher asked a question that stunned me for a second. She stood looking at the Texas Longhorn steer on display and asked very loudly—"Is this Longhorn a boy or a girl?" I looked at her and said, "Well, it's a steer," assuming she knew what that meant. However, she continued somewhat annoyed. "What we want to know is how you know if a Texas Longhorn is a boy or a girl? I couldn't believe this was happening. And of course, the kids were all paying close attention. So I said, "Well, the girls have girl parts and the boys have boy parts." The teacher looked horrified.

She said, "I wanted you to say that the males have horns and the females don't." Well I couldn't say that because both the males and females have horns. She didn't know how to respond at that point because all children were listening to our exchange and waiting for their

teacher to say something. Now it was her turn to be stunned. She just said, "Oh my God, I am so sorry." I managed to save the day by telling kids it was time to move on.

I have been a docent for two years now, and I still love touring. There is so much to see at The Autry that I discover new things to talk about every time I go through. Choosing to volunteer at The Autry has turned out to be one of the best things I've for done for myself since I retired.

For anyone who wants to join me as an Autry docent, a new class will be starting up on June 20, 2011. It will meet on Monday afternoons from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. The \$100 fee for the training includes all educational materials and a museum membership. For additional information you can e-mail Susan DiCato at sdicato@theautry.org or call her at (323) 667-2000 ext. 237.

Make Sure Your Contributions Are Noted in the PCC Archives

The administration at PCC is trying to make sure that the contributions of everyone who worked at the college are noted in the archives. There are only three questions to answer, so please take the time to either visit the Human Resources website or mail in your responses. Everyone retiring from the college from now on will be asked to fill out the form. However, a lot of people have retired over the years, and a lot of that important information is missing. Please take the time to respond to items 1-3 listed below.

Send your responses to the Pasadena City College Retirees' Association, 1570 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena 91106. Those of you who prefer to respond online can check out the Human Resources department on the PCC website. There will be a link titled Retirees' form.

1. We are interested in knowing what contributions you made during your time at PCC that you would like noted in the college's archives?
2. What makes you the proudest when you think of the years you spent at PCC?
3. What do you want people to say about you when they recall your service to PCC?

Joe and Jo Anne Probst Bitten by Cruise Bug

By Joe Probst

I have known Mikki Bolliger for over one score and ten years. When I met her, I found Mikki to be a pleasant and kind colleague. The years have passed and Mrs. Bolliger has moved on to become the Editor of "Staying Connected." Professor Bolliger has now turned into a demanding individual who wants to know what I have done since my retirement. In desperation I turned to the October issue of "Staying Connected" to see if I could borrow from what others have done in writing my report (a technique learned from my students). I found that I do not compare to what our friends have done. I have not volunteered in Tanzania. Nothing in the

world is going to get me to go to any place called a "DMZ." So, Mikki is forcing me to think about what I have done since I became an Emeritus.

Like many PCC teachers, I continued to teach part time for one and a half years. Then my wife, Jo Anne, retired and I went looking for our first major vacation. We did not want to fly and to our delight, we found a Princess cruise to Hawaii leaving from San Pedro. Four days at sea, then four days and four islands, then five days back to San Pedro with a quick stop in Mexico. The trip was a delight, good food, interesting people, good food, fun places to go, good food. We had caught the cruise bug.

Our next cruise was out of Quebec City, up the St. Lawrence Seaway then down the east coast of Canada and the United States to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Fantastic places to see, not to mention the good food.

This January we took our third cruise, repeating the one from last year to Hawaii. We took my wife's 86-year-old mother with us to share in this experience. We have two more cruises planned. The next is out of Tampa, Florida going through the Panama Canal and ending in San Diego. After that one, we will go out of Vancouver, B.C. to Alaska and then continue down the coast to San Diego.

Between our first and second cruises we did a 7,000 mile cross country driving trip. We were going to the International Nutcracker Convention being held in Connecticut. Along the way to and back we visited several National Parks, Niagara Falls, Williamsburg, and Carlsbad Caverns. We are members of the Los Angeles County Arboretum. Making use of that membership we found four arboretums to visit along the way.

We also learned that we needed to be careful on the amount of faith we put on our GPS. There were two notable GPS incidents. The first was after we left Bryce Canyon National Park. Our next stop was going to be Arches National Park. We found Arches on our GPS as a point of interest. The GPS took a moment to think about it and we were off. We had only traveled a few miles on a two-lane state road when the GPS told us to take a right in two miles.

When we reached the turn we found a one lane road heading off into the distance. It seemed to be out in the middle of nowhere, but the distance markers seemed correct. When we made it up to the 9,000 foot elevation we hit the first patch of snow. The third patch was the problem and we could go no further or back up. Lucky for us there were some nice folks with a four-wheel drive vehicle. A couple of hours later we were on our way back down. We will hold Arches National Park for a visit on another drive.

The second GPS situation was after we left Canada at Niagara Falls. We quickly noticed that the GPS indicated travel time of many hours for locations that should be only an hour or two away. Being a very low tech person it took me some time to figure out that the GPS was set to avoid turn-pikes. The poor thing was trying to figure out how to get us places so we did not have to pay a toll, not an easy task on the East coast.

When not collecting nutcrackers, driving around the country, or going on cruises, my wife and I find it is not hard to fill up our time. Our daughter and son-in-law live in Northern California and have two wonderful children. I can almost drive the I-5 with my eyes closed from going North and South on visits. You can get great BBQ beef ribs in Button Willow.

Back in 1998-99, I took a sabbatical leave to serve on the Los Angeles County Grand Jury. Since that time I have served on the Board of Directors of the State Grand Jurors' Association. I am now a director of the Los Angeles County Grand Jurors' Association and my recent job was to find a speaker for our next regular meeting in February. The speaker I was able to schedule is Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Roy Baca. The contact I used was Scott Svonkin, Senior Advisor to the Sheriff. Scott is also a member of San Gabriel Valley Unified Governing Board and 10.75 involved in learning. Being retired from teaching has not ended my focus on education.

At the end of my current term in December, I will have served 22 years on the Charter Oak Unified Governing Board. At this time I am vice-president of the Board. I have been elected by my fellow Board members in Los Angeles County to serve on the board of the Los Angeles County School Trustees Association (LACSTA) and was president in 2008. I continue to serve LACSTA as Director/Past President.

I have earned the Master's in Governance from the California School Boards Association (CSBA) and have been elected to and serve on its Delegate Assembly. I plan to run for reelection to the Governing Board in November. If any readers would like to get involved in local politics, please contact me.

When not doing any of the above I try to play some weak golf. I would be excited if some of my PCC colleagues would contact me for a round.

A Visit to Vegas Can Also Include a River Cruise

While visiting friends in Las Vegas, they surprised me by suggesting that we do something different. We had done casinos, lavish shows and luxury hotels, but now it was time to see some new and interesting things in the area.

So off we went to the Hacienda Hotel in Boulder City where we assembled for a short bus ride to the shores of the Colorado River. Our gathering spot was just below Hoover Dam and almost under the new and awesome arch bridge.

The trek down the steep ravine was bit scary—you look straight down the cliff—but the curvy road along with an excellent driver made you feel you were in good hands even as she was lecturing.

Once at the river's edge, you walked over a few huge boulders, and voila, you were ready to step onto a rubber raft. It held 10 people and was built very securely. It also gave us a 360-degree view of everything.

We rafted the Colorado River south of the dam for about 45 minutes. What a grand view of the dam and the new arch bridge which is high in the sky and connects Arizona and Nevada. The road over the top of the dam is now for tourists, while the arch bridge is for regular and truck traffic.

It is a magnificent sight to behold, and the short river tour is colorful and safe and with a delightful guide who made it interesting.

The access to the river and tour was easy, and it lasted just long enough to maintain our interest and enthusiasm.

Next time you visit the Las Vegas area, I strongly recommend this little side trip. It is different, memorable and it is also reasonably priced.

Staub Discovers There's A Lot to See in This Country

By Patricia Staub

This past summer I flew to Taos, New Mexico and spent a week with my niece and family in this fabulous house, built by a Hollywood set designer. This incredible house had an incredible view of the mountains everywhere.

After my visit, I met my friend and former neighbor Nan in Albuquerque to help her drive cross-country to Lancaster, Virginia. I loved the drive across our beautiful country.

We spent the first night in Amarillo, Texas, then we ventured to the green, green Ozarks of Arkansas, then Knoxville, Tennessee then to Stainton, Virginia (West part of Virginia). The Blue Ridge Mountains, Shenandoah Valley are all gorgeous. And finally on to the East coast of Virginia, about an hour from Richmond on the Chesapeake Bay. My heart and eyes were filled with the beauty of our fabulous, breath-taking country.

After my cross-country trip with Nan (I was helping her on her drive as she has moved from Pasadena to Virginia. She retired this past summer), I flew back to Albuquerque, New Mexico and drove through some of the most desolate territory to meet my brother and his wife at the Ponderosa Campground near Pegosa Springs, Colorado. We camped on the Canejos River—again a beautiful country with mountains all around. We also took a narrow-gauge train ride up into the mountains.

In August, I joined my brother on another camping trip in the Ozarks—Bull Shoals State Park on the White River, right on the border of Northern Arkansas and Southern Missouri. OMG...as the kids say...what a delight! Green, green, green...clear, sparkling, fast moving river, trout galore, and lovely, lovely Ozark hills (they call them mountains).

My brother hired a guide who actually took us on the river to trout fish...my FIRST! I loved this kind of fishing. The guide baited my hook, cast the line for me, then handed the rod to me and

he said, "Ok, now you're fishing!" Of course, with his expertise, I caught about 30 trout. "Catch and release." I had so much fun, and I particularly enjoyed the time with my brother d who had triple by-pass surgery 10 years ago.

Consider Giving to The Scholarship Fund

You don't have to wait until the end of the school year to make a donation to the Retirees' Association Scholarship Fund; you can donate anytime during the year. However, this is a particularly important time to donate because the college and the retirees are trying to meet the Osher Challenge. (See Harry's Column for details about turning our donations into perpetual scholarships.)

The Retirees' Association prides itself in giving deserving students the help they need to continue their education. With students struggling because of the bad economy, it is even more important that money be made available for scholarships.

The amount doesn't have to be much, anything will help build the fund. You can write a check or simply call the PCC Foundation and use your credit card. You can get a tax deduction, help a deserving student and earn air miles all at the same time. Please indicate Osher on your donation.

Woody Ohlsen, 96, and Still Teaching

By Marilyn McMahon, staff writer Santa Barbara News Press Longtime students of Woodrow Ohlsen, better known as Woody, will be happy to hear that the beloved instructor, who celebrated his 96th birthday March 1, has no plans to retire as he begins his 30th year teaching courses in "Literary Classics" for Santa Barbara City College Continuing Education Division.

"Renaissance Lives: Portraits of an Age" by Theodore K. Rabb will be the focus of his next 10-week class. "I had some problems with a pacemaker several months ago, but I'm fine now. If this next 10 weeks goes all right, I'll keep on going. I teach the fall, winter and spring sessions but not in the summer," said Woody, whose physical appearance and mental acuity belie his age.

He attributes his longevity and zest for life to "luck, genes and the fact that I finally gave up smoking 46 years ago after a good friend died in his 40s. I had given up many times before but cheated and always began again," he said during an interview in his apartment at Vista del Monte, where he and his wife, Marie, have lived since 2001. Mrs. Ohlsen, who is 92, lives in the Health Care Center.

Woody's parents, Herman and Regina Ohlsen, lived in Iron Mountain, Mich., on a block with seven families named Olsen. "There was a lot of confusion about the names, which is why my father changed the name to Ohlsen," he explained. Woody was the oldest of three sons. "I was

named Woodrow after President Woodrow Wilson My father, a bandleader, was a Democrat who voted twice for William Jennings Bryan. My mother was a church organist.”

After graduating in 1936 as class valedictorian from Kingsford High School near Iron Mountain, Woody, who was born in 1915, was awarded a four-year scholarship to Lawrence College in Appleton, Wisconsin “It was the middle of the Great Depression. The scholarship included \$7 a month for spending money,” he recalled with a chuckle While at Lawrence College (now Lawrence University), Woody had a professor who was to have a profound impact on his teaching techniques.

“His name was Nathan Pusey, who later became president of Harvard University. He introduced me to the Socratic method of teaching in which the teacher throws out questions for students to discuss. It was much more interesting than listening to lectures, - said Ohlsen, who graduated Phi Beta Kapp from Lawrence in 1940.

“I majored in English, which was then called literary forms and compositions,” he said. Another scholarship led him to the Boston University School of Theology where he decided after a year, “that I didn’t want to be a preacher” and transferred to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor to pursue a master’s degree in English. It was there he met Marie Nyman, a graduate of North Western University.

“It took three weeks to get engaged and three months to get married on Feb. 26, 1944, a beautiful day in Ann Arbor,” he said the couple, who will celebrate their 67th anniversary next month, have one son, one grandson and two greatgrandchildren.

Before earning a master’s degree in 1945 at UM, Woody also taught classes in “bonehead English,” using the Socratic method, much to the enjoyment of himself and his students.

He decided to get a junior college teaching credential at UCLA, which brought him and his wife to California in 1945. A year later, Woody was offered a position as an English instructor at Pasadena City College where he became chairman of the department in 1958 until his retirement in 1977. Marie Ohlsen, who had been teaching at Cal State Los Angeles, retired the same year, and the couple moved to Santa Barbara.

Soon after settling into their new home on Skyline Circle on the Mesa, the Ohlsens began taking literature classes at what was then called Adult Education. “Mark Ferrer, the instructor, suggested that Marie and I teach classes, so we did. Marie taught poetry and Shakespeare, and I began teaching the classics, the Greek tragedies, Homer’s ‘Odyssey,’ ‘The Persian Wars’ by Herodotus just like I did in Pasadena.”

The free courses are not for sissies. Still, they consistently attract average enrollments of 30 to 50, an even mix of men and women, mainly ranging in age from 60s to 80s. “I had one person who was 94.

The students are very intelligent people who feel they have missed something in their educations— lawyers, doctors, business executives, house-wives and so forth.

Some have come year after year,” said Woody, adding that he feels “deep satisfaction in working with students. I learn from them. We respond to each other.” Homework assignments between sessions, consist of 30 to 40 pages of reading, which students are expected to discuss in class. Ohlsen said he chose the book “Renaissance - Lives” for his next course because of its relevance in today’s world. “It’s heavy stuff, but I tell the students that it’s better to be superficially profound rather than profound superficially.”

This article was reprinted courtesy of the - Santa Barbara News Press. It was edited for space.

In Memoriam

Friends Bid Farewell to Wally Calvert

Wally Calvert, former Professor and International Student Advisor in the old English and Foreign Languages Division died on Nov. 1, 2010 of a massive heart attack in St. George, Utah. Wally began his career at PCC in September of 1959 and retired in June 1992. He had a reputation for knowing everything that went on at PCC. When he wasn’t teaching, he could be seen in the hallways talking to friends and colleagues, and getting the scoop about what was really happening behind the scenes at the college.

Retired English professor Ron Koertge has written a special tribute to the man so many people at Pasadena City College called their friend.

Wally and I go back a long way. I started at PCC in 1965; he’d recently transferred to PCC from a Pasadena high school. I was twenty-five and Wally was thirty-four. It didn’t take long for us to find common ground – Santa Anita Park. We chatted about the horses at school and met in the in-field on weekends. He and I taught Teddy, one of his three kids, to handicap.

I wasn’t political like Wally, but the things that made him a political ally were the same ones that made him a good friend: honesty, common sense, and sense of humor about human frailty. And, by the way, a good financial advisor. I wasn’t the only faculty member to come to him and say, “What should I do with this little bit of money?” His advice – blue chip stocks and index funds – is as good today as it was in 1970.

Most of us remember when Wally and Ellen (does anybody but me know that her last name was Kepner?) started to look for a place to retire. He and I and Ted were in Las Vegas once (we went for the food, of course) and decided to drive a couple of hours and see the land that he and Ellen had bought just outside of St. George, Utah.

It was gorgeous and the little house they built there was a jewel. Bianca and I visited them a few times every year until Ellen passed away. Eventually he sold that house and he and his new wife Alice found a really stunning place just a mile or two away. And still in Kayenta, of course. The four of us sat on that spacious patio many an evening.

Wally made friends everywhere, and his new friends in Utah rallied when he wasn't able to get around. I talked to Wally on the phone regularly and talked to his buddies about him. Bianca and I saw him a number of times in the last years of his life and he was stoic without rancor and realistic without pessimism or regret. In short, we still sat on the patio and chatted about money and horses until the sun went down and it was time for a drink. Or two. —**Ron Koertge**

Retired Football Coach Don Hunt Passes Away

Don Hunt, retired PCC football coach and instructor, recently died in his sleep according to friends.

Hunt started his football coaching career at John Muir Junior College in Pasadena in 1951 and later became the school's head football coach.

In 1962 Hunt became PCC's head football coach and held that position until 1967. His best season was in 1966 when the team won the Western State Conference Championship and played at the Junior Rose Bowl.

"Don Hunt was a great man, a great coach," said Skip Robinson, former PCC Athletic Director who played for him in that Junior Rose Bowl Game. "He personally taught me a lot about football and about life. He had a big impact on a lot of athletes here in the city of Pasadena." Also a wrestling coach, Hunt was a classroom instructor until 1993 and was an active member of the PCC Sports Hall of Fame Committee. Hunt played football at UCLA and he also broke the school's high hurdle record.

Later he played a short stint with the Los Angeles Rams.

He is survived by his son Michael of Temple City. He will be missed by the students he taught, the players he coached and all who knew him.

David Schnabel, Painter, Department Chair Passes Away

David Schnabel, a member of the art faculty and former art department chair, passed away on Oct. 16, 2010 at his home in South Laguna. David began his career at PCC in September, 1950 as an art instructor, and he eventually became the chairperson of the department in 1978 and held that position until he retired in 1986.

David held a Bachelor's degree in Painting and Design and a Master's degree in Printmaking and Art History. He was an accomplished calligrapher and even filled out his original PCC job application in calligraphy. Whenever friends and colleagues received letters from David, they knew who wrote them by just glancing at the envelope. Everything he wrote was done in calligraphy. David didn't have a lot of time to create art during WWII. He joined the army and

served his country as a paratrooper. At the end of the war, he was able to return to his life as an artist.

David held the Senior Fellowship Award from the Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1948, the Purchas Prize of the Pasadena Art Museum in 1953, and first prize in oils from the Barnsdale Park Annual Show of 1962. Those are just a sampling of the numerous awards he received for his work over the years. His artwork was also featured in many one-man shows in galleries in San Antonio, Texas, Pasadena, Los Angeles and Humboldt in California.

David donated generously to the fundraising efforts for the Center for the Arts and in 2008 was recognized by the students, faculty and staff of the division for his unselfish contributions. The life drawing lab in the new facility will be named after him, ensuring that his legacy lives on into the future.

He was an acclaimed painter and his work was collected throughout the United States. David is survived by his four daughters and 10 grandchildren. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends and colleagues.

Remembering Manuela Gibson

Manuela Gibson passed away on Nov. 30, 2010. She worked at PCC for 31 years as a computer specialist, retiring in 1998.

Manuela was born in Florence, Italy and met her husband, Gaynor Gibson while he was an army officer stationed in Florence just after the end of WWII. Manuela was very active with the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization.

She is survived by three daughters and many grandchildren and great grandchildren as well as her beloved dog, Charley.

Cordie Alford Died in February

Cordie Alford passed away in February in Pasadena. She spent her 15 1/2 years at Pasadena City College in the Purchasing Department. Her position was classified as a senior purchasing clerk.

Following her retirement in 1982, she wanted a change of pace, so she went to school and earned her real estate license. She was very successful at her second career, and she worked in the real estate field for many years before ill health forced her to slow down. She passed away after a series of debilitating illnesses.

George Trujillo

George Trujillo passed away on Feb. 4, 2011. George began his career in Human Resources during the implementation of the College's first online personnel system in 1989. He then transferred to the Information Support Office and then moved to Admissions and Records.

Although George retired from the Admissions and Records Department after 14 years of dedicated service to PCC, he didn't forget where he started. Even after he retired, George substituted in Human Resources during heavy recruitment periods.

George was an enthusiastic classic movie buff and a historian of Motown Records' music. Through the years, he was always known for his great sense of humor and his "gentlemanliness." George will be missed by all who knew him.

Francyne Ford Franco Loved Nature and She Nurtured the Rose Garden at the Huntington Library

Former colleague Francyne Ford Franco, age 75, passed away on Jan. 11, 2011 at her home in Pasadena from cancer.

Francyne was born May 15, 1935 in Chicago, Illinois. She moved to Pasadena during her high school years. She worked at Pasadena City College as a health office manager from 1981 until 1997 when she retired. During her years at PCC, she made and maintained many close friendships.

Francyne was an accomplished artist. Her watercolor paintings are filled with beauty and serenity which is how she lived her life. She had a love and appreciation for nature which showed in her paintings and in her ability to lovingly care and nurture beautiful gardens. She was a volunteer at the Huntington Library and tended to the rose gardens.

Francyne had a wonderful sense of humor and truly appreciated a good joke. She was an avid reader and had an amazing knack for solving crossword puzzles. Francyne saw beauty in everything and considered each day a gift.

All who knew her were blessed by her generosity, compassion, kindness and strength. Her sweetness was immediately apparent to those who met her and her selflessness to all who knew her.

She leaves her life partner and loving companion Jim Lopez, her daughter Melissa Grabarkewitz, her son Richard Franco, two grandchildren Hannah and Sam; two brothers Michael and Richard Ford, and many close friends.

City of Goleta Names Grove of Trees After Al Turnbull

Geoffrey Alan "Al" Turnbull died on Nov. 21 at his home in Santa Barbara.

Al was born in Saskatchewan, Canada and grew up in Pasadena. His studies at Cal State Fresno were interrupted with the outbreak of World War II. During the war, he served his country in the U.S. Navy as a torpedo bomber pilot. Al survived a battle at Iwo Jima that sunk his ship and left him adrift at sea for many hours before he was rescued. Al managed to make it home safely. Upon his return home in 1946 he married Harriet, and they raised four sons.

Al returned to school and completed his education at Cal State L.A. When he retired from PCC he was working as the head of the Business Education Department's extended day division.

He and his wife Harriet moved to Goleta where Al became involved in the planting of trees at local elementary schools and throughout the area. He was instrumental in planting 90 California coastal live oak trees within the Lake Los Carneros Preserve and he oversaw their care for more than 20 years.

In 2009 the Goleta City Council formally named it the Al Turnbull Grove in his honor.

Angelica Diaz Died After Battling Disease

Angelica Diaz died on Wednesday, Nov. 11 after a valiant battle against a serious illness.

Angelica began her academic career at PCC in May, 1992 as a full time temporary EOPS counselor and was subsequently hired for a permanent position in the following year. She loved working with students, and she particularly enjoyed helping to prepare first generation college students for their academic careers.

Over the years, many students expressed their gratitude for her special caring and guidance. Angelica realized how important it was for the first member of a family to graduate from college. It made it easier for those who came after. She was active in La Raza Faculty and Staff Association.

Angelica attended CSU Los Angeles where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Master's in Counseling. Prior to joining PCC, Angelica worked for the Los Angeles Community College district as well as Glendale Community College District.

Joe Mathias Dies from Congestive Heart Failure

Joseph L. Mathias, who spent 40 years at PCC as a counselor and professor, died Nov. 29, 2010 from congestive heart failure in his home in Roseville, CA. He was 87.

Joe's wife, Helen said he had a love of cars stretching back to his boyhood when his family ran an auto repair shop. During WWII, he served as a crew chief with the U.S. Army Air Corps, repairing and maintaining B-17 bombers in Italy and North Africa. He even served with the

Tuskegee Airmen for a short time when one of their planes crashed nearby and he worked to repair it.

Joe got his start in teaching by working as an auto mechanic in downtown Los Angeles, where many teachers from L.A. Trade Tech College were customers. Their suggesting and prodding encouraged him to complete vocational work at UCLA.

After the war, Joe became the charter professor for the Automotive Technology program at PCC, a position he held for 40 years. He also helped build and maintain PCC's Tournament of Roses parade float entries for several years.

After his retirement and move to Roseville, he worked for four years as a volunteer at the Towe Automotive Museum, now known as the California Automobile Museum.

He also volunteered with the Roseville Police Department, working on the graffiti abatement team. Joe earned a presidential bronze award for the 264 hours he volunteered with the police department.

Joe is survived by his wife of 64 years, Helen, son Raub, daughter Martha and four grandchildren.

Phillip Davidson, Who Spent 21 Years at the CEC, Died of Cancer

Phillip Davidson, who worked as a custodian/engineer at the Community Education Center, passed away from cancer on Nov. 27.

Phil joined the CEC staff in 1970, and he retired after 21 years of service to the college. Colleagues at the CEC remember him as a kind, friendly man, who enjoyed working at the CEC and, he loved all of the people he worked with. Several employees at the Community

Education Center said all of those who work at the CEC are members of a close-knit family, so it is sad to lose someone who was part of the family for so long.

Phil loved hunting, particularly for deer. He had a passion for collecting model cars. The Davidsons belonged to the Highland Park Full-Gospel Assembly Church. He and his wife, Mary, were very involved with the church.

When Phil passed away, he was initially survived by his wife, but she passed away one month after he did on Dec. 27.

Phil and Mary Davidson leave behind two sons, a daughter and five grandchildren.

PCC Offers Staff Golden Handshake

he ranks of the PCC Retirees' Association may be swelling soon if the college administration is successful in its attempt to lure older faculty and staff members into retirement. The district is offering them one of the most generous incentives proposed at any community college in more than 30 years.

Those eligible for the package must be at least 55 years of age with a minimum of 14 years of service. "The district requires that enough people retire to meet the college's fiscal and operational objectives." In other words, if enough people take advantage of the incentive to save the college money, the plan will be implemented. Employees must turn in their paperwork by June 10, 2011. After the deadline, the resignations and retirements are locked in and may not be rescinded unless the college withdraws the plan.

The package calls for the college to pay contributions that will equal 75 percent of the participant's final pay. (The final pay is defined as the employee's 2010-2011 final base salary multiplied by the employee's current FTE.)

Although no numbers were available for classified employees, 174 faculty members are eligible to take advantage of the incentive.

Join Us for the Ramona Pageant

The Retirees' Association has planned a trip to the Ramona Pageant on Saturday, April 16. If you haven't joined the group before, you'll want to sign up for this excursion. You should have gotten a flyer in the mail, so this is just a little nudge in case you haven't reserved a spot. The cost of \$75 per person includes coach transportation, the pageant, lunch, taxes and tips. And of course, you will have the company of your friends and former colleagues. Please join us, it will be a fun day.

Sheila Lamson's Artichoke Dip

A number of members have requested the recipe for Sheila Lamson's artichoke heart dip. So, we decided to make it available here.

I have no written recipe for this dish. It was given to me over the phone by a friend. I have no measurements. Here goes...

In a shallow microwave proof dish (like a pie dish only smaller in diameter. I used an 8" diameter plate) assemble the layers.

First layer: marinated artichoke hearts drained (save the liquid) and chopped small enough for easy “dipping.” Maybe 1/2-3/4 inch deep. (I get the big jar of marinated artichoke hearts at Costco or Smart & Final. This jar will make two or three recipes.)

Second layer: Mayonnaise mixed with a little of the liquid you saved (just a little for flavor. The mayo shouldn’t be runny. Pour the leftover liquid back into the jar to save for another occasion)

Spread this over the layer of chopped artichokes to cover. Third layer: chopped chilies. (I get the can of chopped chilies at Trader Joe’s 4 oz. Their brand is perfect.) Sprinkle over the mayo.

Fourth layer: Grated cheese. (I use cheddar. You can use whatever cheese you have left over in the refrig.)

Cover as thick as you like. This can be prepared ahead of time and kept in the re- frig. Just microwave for 4-5 minutes or until the cheese melts.

Serve with spoons for dipping onto crackers or sturdy chips that can hold this mixture.

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