

Staying Connected

PCC Retirees Association
March 2012

Lisa Davis Found Her Passion and Became a Volunteer at The Huntington

By Lisa Davis

The weekend after my retirement, two friends called. One invited me to join her Chinese brush painting class, which I did the following Monday. This was the perfect opportunity for me, who had in her youth dreamed of being an artist. I stayed with the brush painting for several years, and still hope that I will return to this medium once I find another teacher. Sadly, my talented and beloved teacher died.

The other friend who called me that weekend invited me to join a docent training class at the Huntington. The training was for the European Gallery - home of famed Blue Boy, Pinkie, and other iconic paintings. I applied, got accepted, and loved it. Since my favorite painters are the Post-Impressionists, I was not sure if the traditional art of the European Gallery was my cup of tea. No problem! Henry Huntington's love of English art, and his wife Arabella's love of everything French made the Huntington's collection endlessly fascinating. The docent training we received was excellent.

Next, I took the Huntington's course on American Art, which informed me not only about a branch of the visual arts about which I knew little, but of American history. That in turn led to training for a special exhibit of George Washington, which was in the domain of the Library. Since I like to cook, the Herb Garden training was next on my list, and there I was able to do some research into the founder of the Herb Garden, who, after being widowed in San Marino, started the Herb Garden in her free time, and later became a cloistered nun. What a story! Now the Herb Garden is an integral part of the Huntington gardens.

The history of the Huntington family captivated me. Collis Huntington the railroad baron, his wife Arabella, nephew Henry, who bought the property the Huntington occupies now - it is a quite a story. An enormous amount of some of the best English Huntington's acquisition of Los Angeles real estate, utilities, and other business interests earned him the title "Mr. Los Angeles." When the Huntington in 2002 created a new program that combined a tour of the estate with the Huntingtons' history, I was quick to sign up for more docent training.

I also trained for several special exhibits, and volunteered for a time in the Art Research Library.

I have also been a so-called “Reader” in the Huntington Library since the time I did research for the humanities courses I taught. I furthermore plan to become a docent in the Japanese Garden when it reopens this spring. You can see that the Huntington kept me busy and involved in something I found exciting and stimulating. My husband Elton who also taught at PCC, encouraged my interests since he also loved the arts.

On our travels, we enjoyed visiting many of the world’s great museums.

In 2004, a Huntington friend invited me to join the docent training at the Pacific Asia Museum. By that time Elton and I had traveled extensively in Asia, but we didn’t know much about Asian Art. We both had a lively interest in Asian religions, and the Pacific Asia Museum seemed the perfect place to learn more about Asian arts and culture.

In comparison to the Huntington, the Pacific Asia Museum is very small. It is however a gem, right in the heart of Pasadena. The docent training was rigorous and strengthened my interest in Asia. Elton and I continued our travels in Asia, and now some of the sights and arts made more sense to us than before.

One of the differences between the two museums is that while the Huntington has paid staff to organize their docents and volunteers as well as the training, the Pacific Asia Museum’s docents organize themselves. This leads to many opportunities besides learning about art. The Docent Council is governed by a board, has committees, meetings, and also organizes the training of new docents by inviting lecturers from local universities.

This was an opportunity for me to not only learn about Asian art, but to flex my organizing muscle, and I soon become a member of the board. I later served as docent council president for three years.

Currently, I am parliamentarian, the editor of our monthly newsletter, and am also active on several committees. After Elton died, my friends and my volunteer activities were my life line. I was fortunate that Elton had not only encouraged my volunteering, but had actively participated in attending art openings and other events with me. He was also my sounding board when I faced certain problems and decisions that come with involvement in organizations.

While I volunteered, Elton followed his own interests. He took part in a men’s group who call themselves the Green Street Philosophers, to which a few other PCC retirees also belong. Elton loved golf, played almost daily, and never missed the yearly PCC golf tournament. He read extensively in philosophy and religion, and loved classical music. It was wonderful to share our experiences at the end of the day.

I am grateful for the opportunities that volunteering has offered me. I have learned about art, history, and being a team player.

I feel useful when I help children learn to love museums and art. I love sharing what I know with adult museum visitors. It is really a continuation of my teaching life, and, as I like to say, one without reading student papers, grading tests and assigning grades. So, find your passion and see if it translates into volunteering.

Long-Serving Retirees' Board Members Move On; Replacements and New Officers Named

By Harry Kawahara

We extend a warm welcome to two new retirees who have just joined our Board of Directors effective January 1, 2012. They are Virginia Dedeaux and Lisa Sugimoto. Virginia was the Supervisor of Student Business Services and Lisa served in several administrative capacities including President.

Both of them bring a vast amount of experience and expertise to the Board and we are pleased that we can benefit from their rich and varied backgrounds.

They both have spent many years of service to PCC and have a strong sense of loyalty and commitment to the institution.

We say goodbye to four outgoing Board members, Al De Ponte, Dick Chamberlain, Skip Morkisch and Bessie Radcliff-Darden.

Al was our Second Vice-President and Chair of the Activities Committee for years and did an incredible job of planning so many of our different field trips. This involved a great deal of planning and Al did wonderfully in making all the necessary arrangements. With Al in charge, we knew our trips would go smoothly. He was the capable manager of the Student Bookstore. Great work, Al!

Dick served in several capacities on our Board including President and Secretary. For years, he was the Math Department Chair (as it was called then). After his first retirement, he was asked to return as Interim Dean of the Math Division. He was a mentor to me when I became President. He was always available for advice and consultation. He is a wise and thoughtful man. Many thanks, Dick!

Skip was a stalwart on the Activities Committee for many years. He had some great ideas regarding field trips because he had a background in travel. He was especially helpful at our Mixers taking care of the many logistical details. He served as a Clerk in Fiscal Services. Outstanding work, Skip!

Bessie was a faculty member of the Life Sciences and Allied Health Division for many years. We enjoyed her cheerful presence at our Board meetings and enjoyed reading her articles in our newsletter regarding her many exciting trips abroad. Thank you, Bessie!

Weather Extremes Mark Group's Trips

By Mikki Bolliger

Members who joined the Retirees Association for excursions to the Ramona Pageant and the Newport Christmas Boat Parade last year know that we certainly have a knack for picking the dates for our trips.

The day we went to the pageant in Hemet, it turned out to be one of the hottest days of the year. Several people, none from our group, even collapsed from the heat. We sat in excellent seats in the open-air amphitheater, fanning ourselves and drinking water as the sun beat down on us unmercifully.

Then someone from our group spotted blocks of empty seats in the shade. They were the "cheap seats," but on a day like that, they were a lot more appealing than those in the prime seating area that we had purchased. It didn't take long for our group to leave our seats and seek refuge in the empty ones in the shade where we were able to enjoy the rest of the performance. The pageant has only a limited run each year, so we couldn't wait for cooler weather.

However, those who wished for some cooling that day, got their wish, but unfortunately, it was months later. The retirees took off for the Newport Beach Christmas Boat Parade on a cloudy but pleasant day in December.

We hadn't gone more than 10 miles on the bus when it started pouring. Wait a minute, it never rains in California! Why now? Even Fritz hadn't predicted rain that day.

We all hoped that the rain would be gone by the time we got to Newport. We were in luck; it was cool and cloudy but not raining. Most of the group had never been to this Christmas extravaganza, so we were particularly excited because we were not there just to observe the parade, but we were going to board a boat that was going to be part of the parade. As we boarded the boat, we noticed that the temperature had suddenly dropped, so we were anxious to head inside the cabin to warm up. Those who entered first grabbed the only available table, and the rest headed outside to sit on the deck. As soon as our boat backed away from the dock, the rain started.

We were all trying to eat while being pelted with rain. It took a while to get into the parade lineup, and all the while, we felt the temperature plummeting. Several people said they wouldn't be surprised if the rain turned to snow; that's how cold it was.

Because we were going to be on the water, most people came prepared for cold weather with hats, gloves and heavy coats.

Once the parade started, we forgot about the weather and just enjoyed the spectacle. It was great and well worth shivering though. Since weather extremes were on last year's trip list, it will be safe to join the excursions we are planning for this year.

The Village Movement

Something to Ponder as You Grow Older

By Harry Kawahara

If you were to listen in on the conversations of retirees, you would hear a litany of familiar concerns. You would hear comments about our physical ailments, such as what medications we are taking, discussions about the pros and cons of different health plans, what doctor to see for arthritis and joshing about having senior moments. This is all part of the adventure of growing older.

As I age, I notice that at times it takes me a little longer to process information. I used to have little difficulty doing yard work for four or five hours, but not anymore. I find that I tire more easily. I recently had cataract surgeries in both of my eyes (not at the same time). In order to cut down on my eye pressure to prevent glaucoma, I must use eye drops daily. Ye olde body is getting worn out.

My wife and I have had some serious discussions about whether we want to move into a smaller house, go to a retirement community, or move to a place closer to our two grandchildren in northern California. These are still points of discussion and we are still searching for the best solution. We have several friends who have moved into retirement homes and generally seem pleased with the move. We have visited a few of them and have been quite impressed.

As nice as these places are, quite honestly, I prefer to stay in my own home. We are told that the vast majority of retirees prefer this option. Friends have suggested that I check out something called the Village Movement which is a growing phenomenon in the country. I understand it started with a group of older adults in Boston and is called the Beacon Hill Village which is now about ten years old.

Pasadena has started a fledgling Pasadena Village which is just a couple of years old and has gained some momentum. As people live longer, there is no doubt that this is a growing movement. Clearly it is meeting a defined and widespread need.

Thus, we were pleased when a good friend contacted us about starting a Village group in our area. This friend, who is a licensed clinical social worker, had the vision to assemble a support group of older adults who would become a support group for each other. The group engaged in some research on the Village concept and agreed that there were many positive aspects to what they were doing.

Hence, we made contacts with friends who we thought would be interested in being part of such a group. We are now a group of 14 people, six couples and two single women. We will probably expand to about 20 persons. We have been meeting since July of last year and we meet about every six weeks in our different homes. Our earlier sessions have been largely social since we wanted to become better acquainted. At our meetings, we first have a potluck dinner together and we have enjoyed some exotic and fascinating food.

We are all in agreement that we prefer to stay in our own homes. We don't all have children or other family nearby who can assist us when we need some kinds of assistance. Our Village is committed to help each other when the need arises. For example, in the last three months two of our members had falls—one broke her wrist and the other broke a couple of fingers. So people in our Village rallied around to provide meals and helped with driving to doctor's appointments. In the future, we plan to have speakers come in help lead discussions on timely topics.

I believe this Village concept is a healthy and valuable one. It will be easier for us to stay in our homes as we age and have that strong support group around us as we help each other age gracefully. I would recommend our PCC retirees to consider becoming part of a Village in their communities or starting a Village. Growing older is a challenge, but we can do it in a manner that is satisfying and enhancing to personal well-being. Through it all, we know it is important to keep things in perspective and maintain a good sense of humor.

As a retirees group, we naturally do commiserate together about the cares and concerns of older adults. Yes, we do our share of complaining but we always seem to end with the comment, "Well, it's certainly a lot better than losing the hyphen"

The Retirees Association's Historian, Marion Murphy, informed me that when the organization was founded, the board voted to name it the PCC Retirees Association WITHOUT the hyphen. Because I am a latecomer to the group, I have been using a hyphen in the name. Now that I know that the formal name should be hyphenless, I will do my best to remember to lose the hyphen.

-Mikki Bolliger

The Lamsons Find That a Visit to Cuba Is Like Taking a Trip Back to the 1950s

By Alan Lamson

When we landed at Jose Marti Habana airport on Xmas Eve, only one other plane was parked on the tarmac— and that was cargo plane. Inside the airport building, the arrival board showed only six flights that day—and the Xmas holidays is their busiest time of the year.

On hearing that we went to Cuba, many have commented: "I didn't think Americans could go to Cuba from the U.S." That had been true, but recently President Obama has revived the "people to people" program initiated under Clinton and later cancelled under Bush. All sorts of groups are now going, including National Geographic. When we saw the email from them advertising the trip, we jumped at the opportunity, joining 23 others for the nine-day tour.

Cuba is a journey back to the past. Almost the first thing you notice are the number of cars from the 50s on the road, especially Fords and Chevy's that many of us lusted after in high school. About 60,000 of these vintage American cars are registered in Cuba, many used as taxis. Cubans have become quite adept at keeping these classics alive, even making parts for them.

Cuba's past and grandeur can be seen in its many colonial style buildings in old Havana, some of them transformed into hotels, such as the Santa Isabel Hotel where our group stayed for a few days. Travel writer Chris Baker, one of our guides, has commented that Havana "is one of the world's great historical cities, resembling . . . an abandoned stage set still waiting for the curtain to rise." On this abandoned stage are hundreds of historic buildings—baroque churches, palaces, castles, and mansions—many of them now turned into restaurants, small hotels, art galleries, and museums. Those that haven't been restored are decrepit relics suffering from decades of neglect.

Among the buildings suffering from neglect are the dilapidated apartment buildings where most of the residents live. Every week a few of them collapse. But we didn't see homeless people or much begging in the streets. Everyone has access to free education and health care, and everyone—including children—has a ration booklet allowing them basic food items, such as rice, beans, sugar, milk, eggs, potatoes, and bananas. Meat and fish are sometimes available on another ration system but quantities are small and unpredictable. We were told that these rations typically last only about two weeks. The rest of the time it's a scramble to find additional food. Those with relatives in Florida do fairly well as do those in the tourist industry who have access to the convertible pesos—Cuc\$—that tourists must purchase with foreign currency. With these the locals can shop at special stores and buy groceries other than the rationed staples along with imported goods not available to most of the locals. Rumor has it that Raul Castro will soon eliminate the rationing system but this rumor has been circulating for years.

People often want to know if we had a "wow" experience during the trip. One stands out from our visit to Trinidad, a World Heritage site on the south coast, declared by Batista as "a jewel of colonial architecture." A preservation law prohibiting development was passed in 1950, insuring that the city would remain as it was. Colonial houses edge the narrow cobbled streets. In one of these, Casa Munoz, we visited with Julio Munoz, his wife, and his equine sweethearts.

Julio Munoz is Cuba's best-known horse whisperer. He is, as he says, dedicated to "making the world a better place for horses." His Diana Project, named after a favorite horse, is dedicated to helping horses and educating their owners. Julio comes from a line of prominent Spanish immigrants; his two older brothers are gynecologists. Their spacious, ochre-colored family casa sits on a corner in Trinidad, adjoining the maternal clinic where Julio and his brothers were born.

The house has been in his family for generations, though the family lost other properties and businesses after the revolution.

So here we all were—nearly 30 of us— in the living room of Julio Munoz’s family house where we met his wife, Rosa Orbea, and his Dalmatian that has free run of the house. He spoke about his family and pointed out that the adjoining clinic was where he and his brothers were born, delivered by his grandfather.

When I was beginning to wonder about his reputation as a horse whisperer, he excused himself for a few minutes and returned with one of his horses, his sweetheart, he said, which he led into the living room. He then began talking about his favorite subject, horses and their characters. He said that a horse has a gentle character, unless mistreated. To emphasize this point, he stood behind his horse, confident she would not kick him. He said that you could get a horse to do what you wanted without resorting to the sort of rough treatment that most of the local ranchers use.

When I mentioned to him the recent film “Buck”, about an American horse whisperer, he said he had seen it and felt much in common with the lead character.

We saw much to appreciate during our 10 days in Cuba, but it became clear to all of us that the Castro regime needs to change considerably to prevent its economy from going into free fall and its younger residents from continuing to leave the country. What we especially liked about the National Geographic tour is that our guide, Chris Baker, who has spent much time in Cuba over the last 20 years and has written extensively about the island, often countered the views of the attractive government guide, Nyla. He said that he began as an ardent supporter Fidel but has changed his views 180 degrees. Not surprisingly, he has occasionally been contacted by the authorities about his written criticisms of the government.

Cuba does have extensive security forces, but the locals are mostly laid back and long suffering, their favorite saying being: “If there’s a problem, there’s always a mohito.” We didn’t encounter many problems, but did taste many mohitos during our stay in Cuba.

Kathy and Bruce Carter Host the Fall Mixer

More than 50 retirees turned out for the fall mixer at the home of Kathy and Bruce Carter. Those attending enjoyed the Carters’ hospitality while eating, drinking and visiting with friends and colleagues. The associations’ mixers are the perfect opportunity to reconnect with old friends or make new ones.

We print the names of those who attended so that you can check to see if any anyone you know was there. It also gives you a chance to see who is participating in the association’s activities.

Those attending included: Brenda Adams, Joe Barnes, Mikki Bolliger, Joan Brandlin, Suzanne Bravender, Marty Burkard, Dodie Burns, and hosts Kathy and Bruce Carter. MaryAlice Cervera, Dick Chamberlain, Lisa Davis, Virginia Dedeaux, Marge Strong-

Faulkner, Vernon Faulkner, Vicki Giles, Bill Goldmann, Lois Guterrez, Karen Holgerson, Bob Jones, and Jim Kossler also joined the fun. Sherry Hassan, Carol Kaser, Harry Kawahara, Joanne Kim, Alan Lamson, Terri Marsala, Mary McQuire, Susan Miller, Inger Moen, Ernestine Moore, Hans "Skip" Morkisch, and Marion Murphy stopped by to visit with colleagues.

Also enjoying the party were Leah Pastris and her husband, Alice Pendleton, Ana Primising, Elizabeth Polenza, Joe Probst, Kathy Rodarte, Erlinda Ruiz, Pat Savoie, Sally Shuster, Joe Spiro and his wife, Lisa Sugimoto, Jan Sutherland, Paul Swaim, John Tulley, Marj Vickers, Odessa Walker and Chrysti Watson.

If your name isn't on this list, think about joining us the next time.

In Memoriam

Betty Meyer Spent 39 Years at the College

Betty B. Meyer passed on January 19, 2012 from complications of a heart condition. Betty, who was born October 15, 1921, grew up in Iowa where her family lived on a 160-acre farm. She was the fourth child of nine children (3 boys and 6 girls).

While living on the farm, she and her siblings walked a mile to a one-room country school house where the teacher taught Kindergarten through Eighth grade. At the end of WWII, Betty moved with her family to Pasadena, where she began her career as an Executive Secretary/ Administrative Assistant at Pasadena City College. She spent 39 years at PCC.

Betty witnessed changes in the college through WWII, the Korean conflict, Vietnam and The Cold War, the hippie movement, Proposition 13 and significant demographic changes that have brought PCC to a new era of development. Betty retired in 1991.

During retirement, Betty found new challenges and excitement. She loved horse racing and for a short time owned a race horse named, "Memories of Blue" who raced at Hollywood Park. She was a sports enthusiast with a special love for the Los Angeles Dodgers. She always seized any opportunity to participate in football pools and/or to purchase lottery chances.

Sylvia Ryan, Retirees Board Member, Passed Away at 79

By John Wood

Director-Learning Assistance Center

When I heard the news that Sylvia Ryan had died, I was knocked back. Her appearance never seemed to change much, let alone diminish entirely. Of course, I hadn't seen her in the past couple of years when, I understand, she had been critically ill.

I worked with Sylvia for the 10 years she was employed at PCC (1984-1994). My position in the Learning Assistance Center placed me next to the Reading Lab where she worked as the center technician.

She always had the same cute brown haircut, dressed in a comfortable, classy style all her own, and maintained an optimistic spirit that was contagious. She was intellectually curious, circumspect, and compassionately liberal.

She loved working in an environment of higher education, and had the greatest respect for all of our students. She worked in a center that taught adults to read, from literacy through critical reading. She had great patience, and was a valuable member of our team of faculty and staff within the English Division and the LAC.

Sylvia was active on several campus committees. As the president of the Instructional Support Services Unit (ISSU) for four years, she transformed that organization from an informal representative group to a certified bargaining unit for classified staff in 1992.

That same year she was chosen for the Unsung Hero Award. Then she turned her efforts towards the formation of the Classified Senate which remains a strong voice for the non-certificated educators at PCC. In retirement she remained active as a member of our Retiree's Association.

Sylvia died in her hometown of Sierra Madre on October 16, 2011 at the age of 79. She has four sons and three grandchildren who will carry the torch of her good soul forward. Our college and those of us who were her friends and colleagues are better off having known her.

Editor's Note: Sylvia was a longtime board member of the PCC Retirees Association. She served as the chair of the scholarship committee, which had the task of reviewing all of the student applications and selecting the winners of the Retirees Association Scholarships each year. She was also very good at convincing people to donate to the scholarship fund so that deserving students could continue their education. Sylvia was a special lady, and we will miss her.

Friends Say Farewell to Jay Hern

Most of us knew Jay Hern as a professor in the Performing and Communication Arts Division. Colleague Carol Norheim shared a more personal side at a memorial held on campus.

Jay was an only child. During his childhood, he enjoyed the companionship of various animals, his incorrigible dog, his affectionate cats, and his ducks. Jay's dad built a backyard pond and a roosting area. Jay enjoyed the ducks so much that, in spite of the unpleasant odor, he did not mind the task of cleaning their quarters. As a boy, Jay learned to box, and later he used this skill to compete in high school, community college, and during his time in the Army.

His childhood piano lessons paid off in high school, when he was invited to play piano with a small group of youthful aspiring performers. As an adolescent, he was not the gentleman and scholar we knew. His closest pals were three "bad" boys who smoked cigarettes and played hooky in order to hang out at the race track.

All that changed, however, when he entered the community college in his hometown of Whittier, and began using his natural speaking ability as the sports announcer at school games on the college radio station, and his acting skills in college theater. He continued to display his acting talent in numerous plays and shows throughout his college and Army years. Later, he applied his talents not only in his teaching, but professionally in the area of radio and TV voice-overs.

As an adult, Jay travelled to Hawaii several times, to England, Switzerland, Italy, and Japan, but his favorite vacation spot was San Francisco, where he spent weekends and/or weeks multiple times throughout his life. His love of music led him to frequently attend concerts, and his wonderful record and C.D. collection covered genre ranging from musical theater, big band era, jazz, and classical. Jay found fulfillment in teaching. He was unassuming, more interested in promoting the programs of colleagues than in promoting himself.

Throughout our 36 years of a friendship that remained precious to both of us, I often shared my faith with Jay.

In the last weeks of his life, a book about Christianity I had given him a year before was on his reading table next to his easy chair. He was still interested in possibilities. There is a Biblical reference to God that says, "He who seeks me with all his heart shall surely find me." I would like to believe Jay finally found the God he was seeking. I truly loved this fine man, and his contributions to my life will never leave me.

Julian Villalobos, Gardner and Unsung Hero Passed Away

Julian Villalobos, who spent 20 years tending the flowers and plants on the campus, has passed away from heart failure.

Julian's friendly face was familiar to faculty and staff as he worked throughout the campus to coax beautiful blooms from the flowers or to tend to the lawns that made PCC a pleasant place to work and study.

He began working at the college in May of 1969 and retired in February of 1989. During that time, he made sure that the people working in the offices always had flowers to brighten their workplace.

Julian had a lot of people on campus who appreciated what he did for the college and the staff. He was selected to receive the college's "Unsung Hero Award."

Julian loved PCC and particularly the company of his coworkers. He would often come back to campus after his retirement to have lunch with his friends in facilities.

Pauline Anderson Spent 31 Years at PCC

Pauline (Polly) Anderson, former chair of the Allied Health Department, passed away on Dec. 10, 2011 at the age of 96. She died of natural causes.

Pauline started at PCC as a student, graduating with an A.A. degree in Dental Assisting. She returned to the college in September of 1958 as an instructor in the Life Sciences Department.

In 1972, she became the development officer for the Allied Health Program which was then part of the Occupational Education Department.

In 1974, Allied Health became its own department, and Pauline was the logical choice for chairman. She stayed in that position until she retired in 1989 as a professor emerita.

Pauline was also a Life Member of the American Dental Assistants Association, and a co-founder and Honorary Member of the California Association of Dental Assisting Teachers (CADAT).

She married Harry P. Anderson, an advertising artist at The Orange Belt Emporium in 1940. They lived in Pomona and later moved to Claremont and Pasadena, where they had a condo across from Cal Tech. He died in 1985.

The last edition of her book, *The Dental Assistant*, was written with Alice E. Pendleton, and published by Delmar, a division of Thomas Learning Inc., in 2000. The book has been through many editions and multiple translations. Harry and Polly had no children, but they lavished love and attention on more than 40 nieces and nephews.

News About PCC

Retirees' Classes First to Be Axed as College Makes More Budget Cuts

The budget ax came down hard on PCC retirees when the administration dropped classes they were scheduled to teach just days before the start of the Spring semester. Forty-five retirees lost their classes with several more escaping the cuts because their classes were part of block programs or no replacement could be found.

President Mark Rocha said that the college's cash flow situation is so dire that he is making plans to temporarily borrow money to meet the payroll for July. Retirees make more money than less experienced adjunct faculty, so the administration is hoping to replace them with instructors lower on the pay scale. Faculty Association president Roger Marheine summed up the situation from the faculty perspective in a letter to the board of trustees.

"I am writing to request an immediate reinstatement of forty-five retirees who were summarily fired and removed from their Spring 2012 semester teaching assignments. Over eighty sections will be disrupted. I am also calling on you to establish a moratorium on all cuts to classes for the spring term. President Rocha's firing of forty-five individuals who have a long, distinguished service to the college reveals a shocking disregard for the human value of our faculty. Faculty, including past Senate presidents, Risser Award winners, and many other excellent individuals not only deserve basic respect, but their absence will undermine the quality of our educational program and our commitment to student success.

The timing of the firings a week before school begins speaks to a managerial vision that is completely at odds with PCC's long history of greatness. The forty-five faculty had developed syllabi, arranged their schedules, and were prepared to teach. Then the deans (themselves in precarious uncertainty) were told to make changes in over eighty sections on the shortest notice. Finally, dozens of Part Time faculty had to be contacted and will be thrown into classes they have less than a week to prepare for—it is truly a nightmare scenario.

You should know that FA representatives met with President Rocha on Wednesday, Feb 8th at his request and our approval. We had hoped to begin a constructive dialogue in which we emphasized that the PCCFA's top priority is to keep classes open for student access. President Rocha said nothing about the cuts. A few days later the cuts and firings were announced. We felt betrayed. Thus, we called for an emergency meeting this past Tuesday Feb 14th and met with President Rocha for approximately an hour-and-a-half. You should know that his stated reason for the cuts and firings was the budget. However, the PCCFA has offered numerous options that would retain the basic integrity of our educational program, sustain class offerings for students, and maintain jobs for teachers.

All of these have been rejected by President Rocha. Basic collegiality has been violated. Nothing less than our fundamental core values are at stake. We are PCC. We must do better. We cannot bow to short term budgetary expediency that harms long term viability. We have an obligation to our students, staff, faculty, and the community.”

Board of Directors for 2012

Joseph Barnes
Mikki Bolliger, newsletter editor
Bruce Carter
Lisa Davis, secretary
Kay Dabelow
Virginia Dedeaux
Bill Goldmann, past president
Harry Kawahara, president
Alan Lamson, web editor
Terri Marsala, treasurer
Mary McGuire
Marion Murphy, membership/historian
Mike Riherd
Pat Savoie
Sally Shuster, 2nd vice president
Joe Spiro
Hollis Stewart, 1st vice president
Lisa Sugimoto
Marj Vickers