

# Staying Connected

P C C R E T I R E E S ' A S S O C I A T I O N

April 2016

## The History Department and Retirees Association Want To Tell Your Story As Part of PCC's 100th Anniversary

Pasadena City College will be celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2024, and the Retirees Association and the History Department are coordinating an effort to document every retiree's role in making PCC one of the top community colleges in the state.

Every one of you has made a significant difference during the time you spent at the college. It doesn't matter what job you did on the campus, you were a part of the history and contributed to the success of this college. That's why the Retirees Association would like to encourage you to tell your story so it can be a permanent part of the college's history.

When PCC celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, a commemorative booklet was printed to mark the occasion. However, in the last few decades there have been numerous changes and tremendous growth on the campus.

This coupled with a significant number of retirements has left the college's institutional memory lacking. So many things that should be a part of the college's archives are either gone or misplaced.

That's where the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



**If you had anything to do with keeping the college grounds looking this good, you are an important part of PCC's history. We want you and the time you spent at the college to be preserved for the future. Whatever job you had, we want your story.**

Project comes in. We would like to collect autobiographical information about your time at PCC.

Each and every one of you has a story to tell, and we want to hear about it from you. A college is a lot more than the instructors and the students. The non-teaching staff ensures that rooms are available, classes are scheduled and books ordered for students to buy. The campus is clean and the grounds beautiful because of the hard working people behind the scenes.

You and the job you did needs to part of the history of the college.

The following questions are suggestions to help you when you write your autobiography. You can make your contribution as long or as brief as you like. We just want

to hear from you.

1. What is your name(s) and current contact information? (Contact information will not be shared publicly.)

2. What were /are your work responsibilities at PCC (and elsewhere, if desired)? Please add dates.

3. What were your most important achievements at PCC and why?

4. What were the most critical changes at PCC that you witnessed and why?

5. How did PCC

change over the decades?

6. What do you think PCC means to the community?

Please feel free to add any additional information that you want to include as part of your story. If you have photographs or documents you would like to include, send them along with your autobiography.

The collection of staff/faculty/friend autobiographies will be part of the permanent collection of the Shatford Library. Writing your own autobiography will help us collect information more quickly, but those who are not comfortable writing can set up an oral or video interview. To do so, call Susie Ling at (626) 585-7335 or email her at [shling@pasadena.edu](mailto:shling@pasadena.edu)

# When is a Cruise Not a Cruise?

By Jo Ann Lee

When is a cruise not a cruise? When the water level is too low for a riverboat to sail. In October, I embarked on a Viking riverboat cruise that began with a land tour of Prague, followed by a cruise on the Elba River toward Berlin. However, the water level was too low to sail. Thus we boarded our boat in Dresden and were bused to our various shore excursions for the next four days.

In Wittenberg, we swapped boats with another group of non-cruisers headed to Prague. Again, we were bused to our shore excursions and then to our final destination, Berlin.

A creepy, eerie, weird sightseeing attraction outside of Prague was in the small Czech town of Kutna Hora. It is a former medieval silver mining town, where silver was discovered in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century, and where the royal mint was later established. In Kutna Hora, we visited one of 12 World Heritage Sites in the Czech Republic, The Sedlec Ossuary—known as the Bone Chapel. It is said to be one of the most visited tourist attractions in the Republic. What makes the Sedlec Ossuary unique is that the chapel is said to contain the skeletons of between 40,000 and 70,000 people.

In the 13<sup>th</sup> Century, an abbot of the monastery in Sedlec was sent to the Holy Land by the King of Bohemia. The abbot brought back a small amount of earth that he removed from Golgotha (or Calvary, a “skull-shaped hill in Jerusalem, the site of Jesus’ crucifixion,” per the Encyclopaedia Britannica.)

He sprinkled the earth over the abbey cemetery. Thereafter, monarchs and other dignitaries from throughout Central Europe wanted to be buried on this holy ground. The Black Death and the Hussite Wars in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century resulted in a shortage of burial sites, so a larger cemetery was needed.

A church was later built in the middle of the cemetery, with a lower chapel used



while the mass graves were unearthed and the skeletons exhumed.

A half-blind monk of the Cistercian Order had the job of exhuming the skeletons, which he tossed into piles. It wasn't until the 1870s that woodcarver Frantisek Rint was commissioned to do something with the bones. He arranged the bones around the chapel, from wall to wall, floor to ceiling, as both decorations and furnishings. A chandelier.

Created with every bone in the human hangs in the center of the nave. Rint's creation served to remind people of the impermanence of human life and inescapable death. On the day we visited, it was rainy, but fortunately it was not dark or gloomy.

We visited the Prague Castle complex, consisting of the St. Vitus Cathedral, the Basilica of St. George, several other palaces and gardens, and defense towers. The Castle itself is the world's largest fortification, serving as the seat of government for emperors and kings and currently, the Czech president.

Our visit in Dresden—known as the Florence of the Elbe—included the Zwinger, one of the most famous buildings in

Dresden, and the giant Frauenkirche. The Dresden Palace, built by Augustus the Strong, a patron of the arts and architecture, houses a magnificent collection of royal jewels, gems and table decorations in its Green Vault.

One stop on our itinerary was at Wittenberg, where Martin Luther began the movement that protested against the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church. He created a strand of Christianity called Lutheranism and established a new Christian theology—Protestantism.

While there, we had a fascinating visit at the home of a 60-something widow, who spoke about life before and after the 1990 Reunification of Berlin. Under Communism, all prices and products were standardized, but there were few selections. People could travel but only to other Communist bloc countries—Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary. Lilly and her husband owned a restaurant in the front part of their two-story home, so they always had enough to eat.

After the fall of the Berlin Wall, there

**Continued on Next Page**





was an exodus of Easterners to the West for jobs and better living conditions; factories had closed and teachers were out of work. Block-style apartment buildings were painted a drab color; new owners are attempting to revitalize them.

Speculation was that some of these buildings would be used to house some of the thousands of refugees flooding into Germany from Syria and other war-torn countries.

A “modern” German, Lilly sold Tupperware. She has traveled to Australia and the United States. She visited Chicago and New York. She said she never slept while traveling because she was so swept up by the excitement and all there was to see.

Having hosted several exchange students from the United States, she maintains contact with them via Skype and email. A large screen television sits in her family room. Lilly prepared a lovely table, adorned with delicious flourless cheesecake and some cookies, coffee and tea for our visiting group of 10.

Our cruise director had assigned us to look for and photograph the longest German word. My find was only 29 letters: *Jugendlichenpsychotherapeu*in—meaning a psychologist for teenagers. (The winner found a 33-letter word.)

All in all, our non-cruise covered all the points on the itinerary plus some extras. Viking had notified us four days before departure of the possibility that the river might be too low to cruise, so we were offered the opportunity to cancel with no penalty and receive a full refund. For those choosing to travel, we were given a \$1,000 voucher to apply toward another Viking cruise. So off to Paris and Normandy in 2017.

## Bob Miller Leaves PCC for Vice-Chancellor Post

The administration at PCC is changing again with the decision by Bob Miller, Assistant Superintendent and Senior Vice President of Business and College Services to accept a position with the Los Angeles Community College District. He will be the district’s Vice-Chancellor for Finance and Resource Development.

Bob was employed at the college for more than 20 years, and many of the retirees remember working with him over the years. Some will remember him in his dean and vice president positions, but others might recall him as a student in one of their classes. Bob’s association with PCC started when he enrolled as a student 42 years ago. He earned his A.A. degree at PCC in telecommunications in 1975. He started working full-time for the college a year later. When he left in 1986 to pursue other interests, he was serving as the Assistant Dean of Learning Resources.

In 2005, Bob returned to PCC as Associate Dean of Academic Support. It didn’t take long for him to move up the administrative ladder.

He became interim dean of Educational Services in 2009, and Vice President of Educational Services in 2011. The following year, he was named Assistant Superintendent and Senior Vice President of Business and College Services. He held that position

until 2014 when he was asked by the Board of Trustees to serve as interim president of the college until a permanent president was selected. When Dr. Rajen Vurdien was named the new president, Bob returned to his former position.

Dr. Vurdien said in a memo to the staff “I’m confident that I can say without exaggeration that Dr. Miller has had a deeper influence on Pasadena City College than anyone else across our community.

In his more than 20 years of service, he has played a role in nearly every aspect of our college, with distinguished service in educational services, academic affairs, business and financial services, human re-

sources, strategic planning, and community engagement, to name only a few. His adept fiscal guidance and unparalleled command of local, state and federal policy has placed PCC at the forefront of the conversation about California’s community colleges, and positioned us to lead our peer institutions through a shifting educational landscape.”

Vurdien added that “More than his service to our college and the community, I am most grateful for Dr. Miller’s friendship. Bob has grown to be a trusted colleague and comrade, and I have much appreciated his wise counsel during the past eight months.



**Bob Miller had to put in hours on the campus radio station when he was a student in the telecommunications department in the early 70s.**

# Scholarship Winners Say Thank You



Scholarship committee members Mikki Bolliger, right, and Alan Lamson, left, pose with some of this year's Retirees' Scholarship winners. Pictured above in the back row: Kody Corduan and Ryan Yazdi. Next row: Jennifer Wilson-Boone and Gaylyn Sumerlin. Front Row: Arcelia Jacobo, Elaine Morales, Karena Almanza, and Sabrina Aguilera.

## Scholarship Helps Kory Corduan Be a Better Role Model for His Son

Dear Retirees Association:

It is with deep gratitude that I received your scholarship. I am honored to be a recipient, thank you.

As a returning student, life is certainly not without its challenges; however, with your help I am able to continue my pursuit of education and be a better role model for my son.

I am majoring in physics, and one day, I mean to earn a Ph.D. I have continued to maintain a 4.0 GPA and was accepted into the honors program.

Your financial contribution to my future has been such a blessing to me and my family!

In addition, being recognized for my hard work has motivated me greatly, which, I'm sure you are all fully aware of, is quite important for a college

student.

I was recently notified that I was accepted into, and will be presenting at, the HTCC Honors Undergraduate Research Conference at UC Irvine for a paper I wrote on human skin adaptation as it relates to the advancements of modern man.

As you have played such a substantial role in my academia, I would like to extend an invitation to each of you who would be interested in coming to my presentation.

Thank you again. Although you are able to help many students each year, it feels like a once in a lifetime chance that someone would do so much for me and for my family.

Sincerely,

*Kody Corduan and family.*

## Jennifer Wilson-Boone Said Award Validates

Thanks PCC Retirement Association.

For the first time in my life I was able to purchase a MAC laptop because of the association's generous gift. I have something that shows my diligent work in college.

This represents all the nights and weekends I stayed up until 1 a.m. and 2 a.m. working on essays and studying for weekly history essay quizzes as I prayed and stressed over my daughter who is in out of psychiatric wards.

PCC Retirees Association you are my inspiration and academic, support. Please Share this email with the board. Again, I say thank you. Have a fantastic year.

*Jennifer Wilson-Boone*

## Scholarship Helped Karena Almanza With Accumulated Debt

Dear Retirees Association:

Good afternoon! I hope this letter finds each one of you well. I wanted to take a moment to thank everyone on the Retirees Committee for selecting me as one of your scholarship recipients.

To say I was surprised is an understatement!

It was a true joyous moment. I felt like someone had finally validated all the hard work I had been putting into school, my family, and myself these past 3 years.

This scholarship will allow me to put most of the accumulated debt I have acquired since I started PCC behind me.

As an older student who has had (and still has) difficulty with math and science, I am extremely grateful that this scholarship will once again allow me to be able to work with a personal tutor to help me in my struggles with math and science. Send everyone on the committee, a sincere and heartfelt "thank you" from my family to yours.

Sincerely yours,

*Karena Almanza*

## Sabrina Augilera Credits Retirees With Being Part of Her Success

Thank you so much for your generous scholarship, I am extremely happy to have been one of the chosen recipients.

As you know, college expenses continue to skyrocket as time progresses, making it challenging for low-income families such as myself. Everything adds up from parking, to books, and gasoline.

This is why I am very grateful for the scholarship you are so generously granting me. Furthermore, coming back to school for me, has not been easy.

I am 44 years old and it was not until recently that I was inspired and motivated to push myself harder in order to make my dreams come true. For instance, I had dropped out of high school in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. At the time, I was awarded the court, living in a foster home. Learning was difficult for



## Scholarship winner Francesca Colapinto is congratulated by Alan Lamson, chairman of the retirees scholarship committee, and Kris McPeak from the foundation, Francesca Colapinto Expresses Gratitude

Dear Board of Retirees,

I wanted to take a moment to thank you for choosing me as a recipient for the Retirees Scholarship. When I found out I was granted this, I was so ecstatic!

I am now a third semester RN student, and I will be graduating in December of this year.

I cannot express my gratitude enough. This scholarship enabled me to buy books for this coming semester and books I need in preparation for the

NCLEX-RN exam, tuition, gas for my vehicle (I drive from Valencia to Pasadena at least three times per week), and so much more!

Thank you again for your assistance in helping me make my dream of becoming a nurse possible. I will definitely be giving back to others in need when I become a nurse. Hopefully one day I can start a scholarship of my own!

Best wishes,

*Francesca Colapinto*

me, with a disability that had gone unnoticed, undiagnosed, and therefore untreated.

It was only in my late 30s that I decided to see a specialist in order to determine whether I had a disability, and it turned out I do; Attention Deficit Hyper Disorder (ADHD).

Thus, my disability contributed as a large reason why I was incapable of learning and on top of that it had made me very insecure. However, now that I had answers, I decided to give education one more try. As I had previously in my early 20s tried to pass my General Education Diploma test and was unsuccessful.

Nonetheless, in 2012, over a decade later, I passed my GED certificate and decided, if I was able to accomplish this, then let me go one more step further and this is how I

decided to enroll in Pasadena City Community College.

Recently, I met with the Child Development counselor, and it was with great pleasure that she informed me that I am one class from receiving my Associate of Arts in Social and Behavioral Sciences. Though, it is still quite a while before I am able to transfer, that is my goal.

I still remember dreaming about attaining an education, which at one point I thought it would be unattainable; but not anymore, I am on my way!

I am ecstatic that you are part of my success here at PCC and I will take this success with me to undergraduate and graduate school when the time comes.

Thank you again,

*Sabrina Augilera*

# More Thank-You Notes From Award Winners

## Gaylyn Sumerlin Sold Belongings To Make Ends Meet

Dear Pasadena City College Retirees Association:

I am delighted and extremely grateful to be a recipient of the Pasadena City College Retirees Association Scholarship. This award will further increase my opportunity to successfully complete the Certificate of Achievements at Pasadena City College in the Business Administration Entrepreneurship and Accounting Clerk program.

I am absorbing as much as possible about the business world and how to become a successful business woman. I graduated at 16, immediately attended Pasadena City College, but left after a few semesters to work full time.

After a few unsuccessful attempts to return to college, I continued working. However, my employment ended and it was hard to find another employer. Consequently, I had to sell belongings and struggled to make ends meet each month.

The hardships I have endured going back to school gave me the motivation needed to get the education required so I can dictate my own fortune.

Additionally, I want to be in a position to help others in the way I was helped.

Being at Pasadena City College has

opened doors that never would've been possible. Prior to attending the 2014 semester at PCC my time was spent volunteering for the local Police Department and organizations for needy families.

I know that patience is virtue because through my experiences at PCC, I was offered an employment opportunity upon my graduation. This proves all things work together for the good, even the hard times.

I couldn't be happier to be a student of Pasadena City College. This has been an amazing experience that would not have been possible without all the support, guidance, and encouragement received from teachers, faculty, the PCC Foundation and generosity from amazing donors such as the Pasadena City College Retirees Association.

I'm sincerely grateful of your contribution towards my educational career. This award plays a key role in easing some of my financial burdens and enables me to focus on what's important, education. It will be used towards my remaining educational expenses.

Thank you for the investment in my future and making this opportunity possible.

*Gaylyn Sumerlin*



**Danielle Torres, 2014 Scholarship Winner**

## 'Thanks for Believing In Me'

Danielle Torres came from an abusive family and has lived on her own since her senior year in high school, more than 10 years ago.

Above is her graduation photo from PCC taken in May of 2015. She is now at UCLA on full scholarship. She sent us a Christmas card with the enclosed photo on which she wrote: "To the PCC Retirees--Thank you for believing in me and helping me to press on. Forever grateful. Love, Danielle, Business Economics."

We know that all of us love hearing stories like Danielle's. Though our scholarships aren't large amounts, they are large in the minds of the returning students who so much appreciate someone believing in them.

Whenever the scholarship committee hears from current and previous winners, they all mention how much it meant to them to have their hard work recognized.

So when you read so many appeals for donations to the retirees scholarship fund, you will know that we just want to help as many of these deserving students as possible.



**Please remember to make a donation to the Retirees Scholarship Fund. With your help, we can make a difference in a lot of students' lives. Send your contributions to the PCC Foundation, and make sure to mark it Retirees Scholarship.**



Scholarship winner Emy Huang came to a recent retirees board meeting with her daughter to thank the association for the award that has helped her with her education. Scholarship chairman Alan Lamson and retirees board president Elvio Angeloni congratulated her after her presentation.

## Award Helped Emy Huang Overcome Obstacles

*Emy was unable to attend the scholarship awards ceremony, so she came to the retirees board meeting and thanked everyone in person for her award.*

Dear PCC Retirees Association:

Thank you for your support in my educational goal. With your scholarship, it will help me overcome the obstacles of completing my Bachelors in Computer Science.

I will be transferring after this Spring 2016 semester, and I thank you all and PCC for helping with the resources I need to march forward to make a path for me and my two children.

I appreciate your support so much!  
Thank you!

*Emy Huang*

## Retirees Scholarship Recognizes Ryan Yazdi's Hard Work and Gives Him Hope for the Future

To the generous members of the Retirees Association:

I am unable to tell you how much I appreciate your generosity. The financial relief that this scholarship will afford me is much needed. Since my father passed away last year, I have been trying to help my brother through school, and although I work full time, I am constantly running out of funds.

So this money will make a significant difference on my day-to-day ability to focus on my studies and not worry about my financial situation.

I want to thank you for that.

What is even more meaningful to me is your recognition of my accomplishments. It means a great deal to me that you have awarded me this scholarship based on not just my grades, but what I had to overcome to achieve them.

I have been really unsure if what I have been doing here at Pasadena City College was exceptional, and if others would appreciate it. Your gift has given me both optimism and confidence that I will be able to win more scholarships and recognition in the future.

I have spent my adult life learning how

to manage a business, and now I am acquiring the tools I will need to start my own. I plan to continue studying business administration and look forward to completing a Masters of Business Administration within the next few years.

Pasadena City College has provided me with a solid foundation from which to move forward. There is a saying Farsi, "omid va harekat," and it means "hope and action." I have been taking action towards my goals, and now you have given me hope.

Sincerely,

*Ryan Yazdi*

### **Please send Us Your E-Mail Address**

**The Retirees Association wants to stay in touch. We send all of our announcements about trips and mixers snail mail, but we would also like to use email for those of you who have e-mail addresses. The organization often has a chance to arrange a last minute excursion only to find out we cannot notify members in time by regular mail. It would also give us the ability to send reminders for special events.**

**Send your email to Alan Lamson at [aclamson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aclamson@sbcglobal.net).**

# No Adventures, Just Plenty of R & R

## A 15-Day Cruise to Hawaii Was the Perfect Choice

By Mikki Bolliger

Many of the articles you read in this newsletter tell of fellow retirees taking fabulous trips all over the world and enjoying exotic vacations.

Their adventures usually include excursions to famous cathedrals, shrines, museums and gorgeous beaches as they soak up the culture of the country. Riding on narrow mountain roads to catch a photo of a breath-taking view just adds to the excitement.

Then there are those of us who enjoy reading about the trips of those adventurers but who require vacations that are a lot tamer and more relaxing. That's why my husband Dave and I chose to take a 15-day cruise to Hawaii.

We started and finished our trip in Los Angeles, so we did not have to worry about dealing with long lines at the airport or delayed flights.

No excess baggage charges were added to our bill even though we dropped four overstuffed bags off with the porter.

We boarded the ship at 2 p.m., and we were unpacked and sitting on our balcony by 3 p.m. watching last minute preparations for the cruise.

It is not that Dave and I are not adventurous, it is just that our regular schedule often makes the thought of returning to work full time seem inviting.

We watch our six grandchildren five days a week. Our day starts when the first two kids are dropped off at our house at 7:30 a.m.

Our 1-year-old granddaughter and 2-year-old grandson stay with us all day, but the other four have to be picked up from school and shuttled around starting at 1:20 p.m.

Add in preparing breakfasts, lunches and snacks,

and you can see why we were craving rest and relaxation.

Just the thought of being able to read a book without constant interruptions sounded delightful.

However, thinking about five sea days in a row each way made me a bit queasy. Dave is the sailor in the family; no matter how rough the seas are he loves it.

Unfortunately, I never seem to get my sea legs. But with the help of the acupuncturist on board, I only got seasick once, and whatever he did, fixed me for the rest of the trip.

We had plenty of time to relax, but there is so much to do every day on the ship, boredom is not an issue. We could choose from social activities, seminars, demonstrations and daily exercise programs. There were dance lessons, first-run movies and bingo most afternoons. A beginning Spanish class was even on the daily schedule.



**My husband Dave and I started every day with a continental breakfast on the balcony of our stateroom. He was finishing his coffee before we decided how we were going to spend our day. The rule of this vacation was no rushing.**

However, we decided early on that we did not want to do any rushing for the next 15 days, so if something we wanted to see or do started too early, we crossed it off our list.

Every morning between 8:30 a.m. and 9 a.m., we had continental breakfast delivered to our cabin. Eating out on the balcony became our daily routine. We lounged around, checked the schedule for the day, or read our books until we had the urge to start moving about.

If we happened to be hungry when we left the cabin around 11 a.m., we could go up to the buffet for a bigger breakfast.

I usually headed for the pool with my book. I was quite content reading on deck, but one day I took my nose out of my book long enough to enjoy a lecture about choosing the right tequila for specialty margaritas.

Of course I had to sample the mango margarita that was part of the demonstration. That's when I found out the sample was the size of a fish bowl and it cost \$10. Delicious!

We listened to several fascinating lectures, attended Las Vegas style shows every night after dinner, and managed to visit the casino to make a few deposits.

We had a set dinnertime at 8:30 p.m., and we were lucky to have delightful tablemates. We looked forward to our evening jokes from the couple from London, and the interesting stories we all shared every night.

Passenger watching was also quite entertaining. We marveled at the amount of food some people could pile on their plates at the buffet. Our guess was that these people heard there was going to be a famine, and they were convinced that they had to eat everything in sight.

Then there were the passengers who wore the most outrageous looking outfits. I was certain they were vampires who weren't able





**Most days the sea was so blue it looked like someone added coloring to the water. Nothing was more soothing than relaxing on a deck chair and looking at that beautiful scene.**

to see their reflections in a mirror. Some of the people who strutted around the pool had bellies that either hid the bottoms of their swimsuits or at the very least, challenged the elasticity of the garment.

Because observing and listening can be a lot of fun, one conversation between the maître d' and a Russian passenger who was trying to enter the dining room in shorts and a tank top, is definitely worth repeating.

The maître d' informed the guest that shorts and tank tops were not allowed in the dining room.

The Russian man started yelling and said, "This not tank top, this Armani. This not shorts, this Speedo." He argued for several minutes until an exasperated maître d' let him in.

After five days at sea, we finally docked on the big island of Hawaii.

We spent one day there, and a day each on Oahu, Kauai and Maui. Passengers had several tours and excursions to choose from on each island, but we opted to rent a car and visit some of our favorite places at a slower pace than the bus tours.

After visiting the last island, we were ready for five more relaxing days at sea. We made a stop in Ensenada before heading home.

By the time we reached Los Angeles, we knew we just had the most relaxing vacation we have had in years.

We weren't ready to get off the ship when they called our group to disembark.

Because now we had to find someone willing to make our bed, leave candy on our pillows and whip up gourmet meals every night.



Everywhere we stopped on the islands, I made sure to dip my feet in the ocean.

## **Retirees' Mixer**

***Mark Thursday, May 19th on your calendar now so you won't forget. The Retirees Association is having a get-together where you can visit with friends whom you haven't seen in awhile.***

***The event is always a casual, relaxing way to spend an afternoon.***

***The get-together will be held from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the home of Elvio Angeloni, located at 3502 Giddings Ranch Road in Altadena.***

***To RSVP, call Sally Shuster at (626) 798-3744 or Terri Marsala at (626) 449-5717 ONLY if you plan to come.***

***Elvio lives in a gated community, and he has to leave the names of those attending with the guard at the gate.***

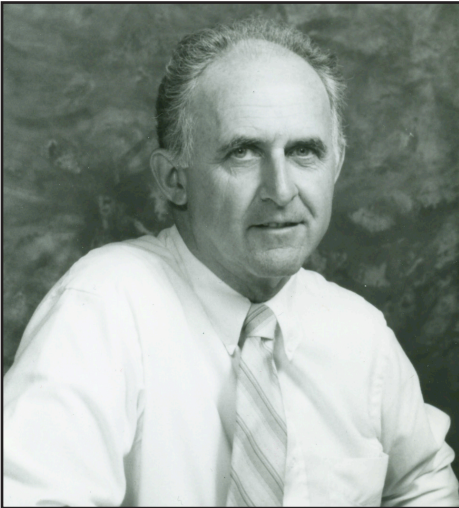
***\*\*Feel free to bring an hors d'oeuvre or wine to share.***

# In Memoriam

## John Madden, Former Dean

John Madden (1930-2015) former dean of personnel at PCC died on Dec. 13, 2015 after a short illness. He was 85 years old.

John died suddenly at his home in Altadena. John was born in Pasadena and grew up in San Bruno.



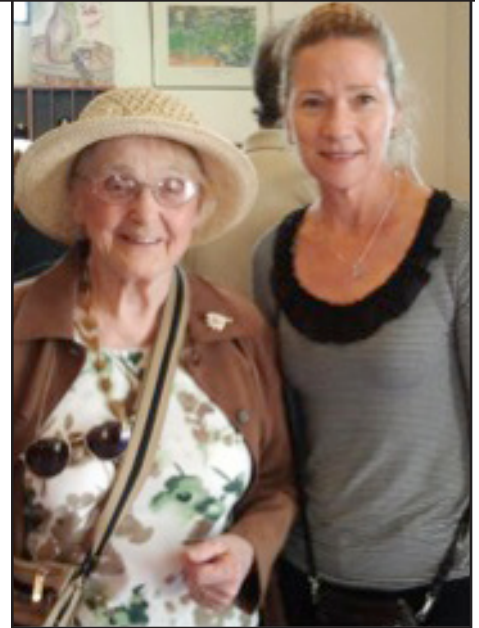
He and his family lived in Altadena since 1962.

A graduate of San Francisco State University, John served as an instructor and an administrator at Pasadena City College, an administrator at Kern Community College and worked at the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

After retirement he continued to serve as an interim administrator at various community colleges. Friends and family will remember John for his good nature and his enjoyment of life. He was a music lover and a sports fan, and he loved to travel.

John is survived by Barbara, his wife of 59 years, his children, Leslie Masson and David Madden, and by his grandchildren, Jared Madden, Michela Masson and Ian Masson.

Donations may be in John's honor to the Pasadena Village.



Marjorie Vickers and her daughter Alison Vickers.

## Marjorie Vickers Leaves Scholarship Fund \$20,000

Marjorie Vickers, a spunky and cheerful 5'2", blue eyed, blonde, passed away on May 29 at the age of 93.

Marjorie had a Ph.D. in zoology from the University College London. She joined the life sciences department at PCC in 1962 and retired in 1988 as Professor Emerita.

She taught biology and zoology with lab courses, which included nursing and pre-med students. After retirement Marjorie remained active on the PCC Retirees Association Board, and the Scholarship Committee. She also participated in the retirees' meetings and functions.

My parents appreciated having received their education for free in England, and realized the opportunities they had because of their advanced degrees. Both were advocates for education, supporting my own as well as the nieces and nephews. I have a Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Toxicology and have spent my career in the pharmaceutical industry investigating mechanisms of the side effects of drugs.

The Vickers Family Trust is leaving a gift of \$20,000 to the Retirees Scholarship Committee to support students truly wanting to improve their lives.

## Mary McGuire Supervised the Learning Assistance Center at PCC

Mary McGuire was born in Los Angeles, CA and attended Los Angeles High School. Shortly upon graduation and during WWII she worked at Lockheed in Finance/Purchasing.

It was there she met and married the love of her life and future husband, Jim McGuire. They married, and shortly thereafter moved to Pasadena, CA.

She retired from active employment for approximately 20 years to raise a family of three boys (James Patrick, Richard Bruce and Brian Andrew).

Mary is survived by her three sons, nine grandchildren and five-great grandchildren. She was very active in the community with the local

schools and other charitable organizations. Mary was also very active in the Retirees Association, and she served on the association's board.

Following this phase of her life she returned to active employment at Pasadena City College.

She loved her time at PCC, and ultimately was promoted to Supervisor of the Learning Assistance Center.

It was also at PCC that she met many of her dearest friends, and made a difference in the lives of countless students in need of tutoring services.

Those who knew Mary know how devoted she was to her family, and her beloved garden, which she never tired of sharing with everyone.





## Dr. Robert Wright, Former News Anchor and Telecom Professor

Dr. Robert Wright, who taught classes in radio and television, passed away in November after a long illness. He was 89 years old.

Bob served in the U.S. Navy, and he attended Northwestern University where he became interested in a career in radio and television news.

When he graduated, he started announcing and writing the news at a mid-western radio station.

After a stint in a small market, he and his wife, Mary, moved to Southern California where he became the leading NBC-TV national news anchor. He spent almost 20 years in the anchor chair for the network.

When he decided to leave NBC, he joined the communications department PCC, where he used his expertise in the field to design courses.

He wrote many of the fundamental outlines for basic media classes, and he was a major influence in the classroom and at the campus radio station.

He maintained his connections at area radio and television stations where he set up internships for his students.

He couldn't leave broadcasting completely when he started teaching. He did many local programs, voice-overs, and a number of charitable media projects.

## David Lopez Taught Architecture at PCC

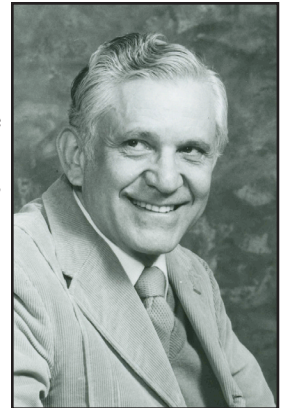
David Lopez, an instructor in architecture and a noted local architect, passed away on Oct. 7, 2015.

"David was an articulate faculty member who had an eye for detail," said Doug Haines, former dean of Engineering and Technology. He made sure every detail was included on the architectural drawings his students completed. Lopez students' impressive work got them accepted at prestigious private schools of architecture and both Cal Polys. Lopez took pride in the accomplishments of his students.

Lopez along with Phil Davies and Richard Rose made up the very strong team that was responsible for making PCC one of the top architectural programs in the state of California.

A Google search for David Lopez shows many of the Mid-Century Modern houses he designed selling for more than \$1million.

For relaxation, Lopez loved to water ski. He often joined college administrators and Engineering and Tech faculty for regular outings to water ski.



## Carla Thommen Retired from HR

Carla Thommen, who worked in the president's office and Human Resources, passed away peacefully after a brief illness on Sept. 1, 2015. She was 87 years old.

She was born December 15, 1928 in Washington D.C. Her early years were spent in Takoma Park, Chicago and New York. She graduated from high school in Teaneck, New Jersey and then graduated in 1950 Cum



Laude from Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts.

In 1953, she married Richard Thommen in Western Springs, Illinois. In 1959, the family moved to San Marino, California. Carla was a homemaker and then returned to work at World Vision International and later Pasadena City College.

In 1995 Carla and Richard moved to San Clemente. They both shared their love of the ocean. Richard passed away in 2008.

Carla loved San Clemente and was active in the church and community.

Carla is survived by her son Robert and her daughters, Linda Carrender and Lisa Kosinski, as well as six grandchildren.

## Beverly Moore Died in Automobile Accident

The Disabled Student Programs and Services office was saddened to learn of the death of a former colleague, Beverly Moore, in an automobile accident.



Beverly, who was one of the lead interpreters in DSPS during the 1990s, died in February.

She is survived by her three children, Miguel, Vanessa, and Adreana.

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