

# Staying Connected

PCC Retirees Association  
Oct 2009

## Bruce and Kathy Carter Still Chasing Eclipses

By Bruce Carter

This summer Bruce and Kathy Carter again traveled to see another total solar eclipse. In July they flew to Beijing and then embarked with 1,500 others on a Costa line cruise ship.

The first stop was Cheju Island off the coast of South Korea. The highest mountain in the country, it is a Hawaiian-type volcano that includes more than 360 separate cinder cones and many miles of lava tunnels. This is a picturesque sub-tropical island where museums are filled with bizarre lava-rock formations (Bruce loved it).

Sailing on southward, they visited Kagoshima, a beautiful large city built on the inner rim of a circular cliff-circled bay (a volcanic caldera) about twice the diameter of Oregon's Crater Lake. In the middle of the bay, Sakurajima is an active volcano about the size of Mt. St. Helens that experiences small eruptions several times a year. Driving around the base of the mountain, one passes many large concrete structures that serve as fallout shelters during volcanic eruptions (Bruce loved it).

Several days on out into the Pacific we reached Iwo Jima and took our time slowly circling and photographing the island. The day before, Bruce had lectured on the rise of Imperial Japan and the war in the Pacific, culminating in the unique battle of Iwo Jima, particularly focusing on the geologic nature of the island battlegrounds. Later on the trip he again filled the 600-seat auditorium with a lecture on plate tectonics of the Western Pacific, giant volcanic eruptions and how they have shaped human history over the past 70,000 years.

The eclipse itself was almost indescribably beautiful. Imagine a long tropical sunset with the sun setting on all sides. At 6 minutes 42.5 seconds, this is the longest eclipse of the entire 21st century. PCC teachers Wendie and Richard Johnston also enjoyed this once-in-a-lifetime event (all four of us loved it). The last afternoon presented an opportunity for all four travelers to explore the port city of Tian Jin. As the main port of entry for Beijing, it is a dynamic cosmopolitan city that is reminiscent of Shanghai.

Browsing through the small shops in the historic center of town, we came across an unusual bracelet of rutiled quartz. It was quite nice, and not at all expensive (Kathy

loved it). However, because of this bracelet, just a few weeks later, in a small shop on a steep cobble stone street in the Colonial town of Ouro Preto on a mountain top in Minas Gerais Brazil, Bruce and Kathy discovered a stunning piece of jewelry that was much more expensive (Kathy really loved it).

## Gone are the Guns: Northern Ireland Today

By Alan Lamson

When most people travel to Ireland, they go to the south because the North has been tainted by years of civil war between the Protestants and Catholics.

Thirty years ago my wife and I visited Northern Ireland and found it unnerving. We were visiting my aunt, Dr. Mary Connolly, in the city of Bambridge, about an hour south of Belfast. While having tea with her in a local shop, several policemen rushed in telling all to leave. “Oh, it must be that someone has parked their car and locked it in front of the shop,” my aunt said calmly.

She had gotten used to the troubles, but even so, she said that her pulse raced every time the phone rang since one of her sons lived in Belfast where the car bombings and shootings were more common than in other cities.

The “troubles” in the North have largely ended as we saw on a recent trip this summer to Belfast to attend a Sister Cities International Conference. Gone are the bombed-out buildings and the barricades between the Catholic and Protestant neighborhoods manned by British soldiers. The troubles finally ended because—as a tour guide put it “People just became sick of the violence.”

But Belfast still shows relics of the long-standing divisions between Protestants and Catholics. On a tour bus driving through the infamous Falls Road area, we noted a prominent legacy of the Troubles—the four-mile long “Peace Line”. It’s a seventy-foot high fence of steel, mesh and barbed wire that separates the Catholics on Falls Road from the Protestants on Shankill Road.

Another legacy of the troubles can be seen in the large number murals that both sides have created. The Catholic murals often show their heroic figures, such as one of Bobby Sands, the leader of a 1981 hunger strike in prison, who was elected as a member of the United Kingdom Parliament during the strike and who died in prison.

The Protestants murals, on the other hand, tend to be very militaristic. Many show Ulster (i.e. Protestant) men in black balaclavas with guns. One of the most famous of them shows a youth pointing a gun at you.

It's unnerving even though you know it's a picture.

Though the troubles appear to be over in Belfast, we were surprised to hear that the number of "peace lines" separating Catholics and Protestants had actually increased since the hostilities ended.

The most positive sign in recent years, however, occurred in 2007 when a joint power sharing agreement between the two main parties was put into effect.

During the Sister Cities Conference, we were all invited to an evening at Stormont, seat of the Northern Ireland Parliament, where the leaders of the two main parties, The Democratic Unionist Party (Protestant) and Sinn Fein (Catholic), introduced themselves and said that as recently as two years ago, they hadn't spoken to each other.

After the conference, Sheila and I drove through the serene, green countryside of the North, where we saw little evidence of the 30-year civil war, though we did often see the Union Jack flying in towns that wanted to declare their allegiance to the United Kingdom, not the Irish Republic to the south.

## A Trip to Rainbow is Fun and Close To Home

By Mary McGuire

When those trips lengthy, exotic trips are just out of the question, it may be time to think about a "getaway" closer to home. Retirees might want to consider driving down to the small rural town of Rainbow, tucked away just off Interstate 15 between Fallbrook and Temecula on old highway 395.

The town is home to the newly refurbished and beautiful Rainbow Oaks Restaurant, owned and operated by Duke and Jonelle Maples. The restaurant, originally established in 1946, had been a mainstay in the small community until last year when the restaurant suddenly closed.

Duke and Jonelle stepped in, and along with others, worked to restore the interior of the historic building. The newly refurbished restaurant has become a gathering place for locals, travelers and bikers who partake of the fine affordable fare for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

The interior of the Rainbow Oaks Restaurant provides an environment surrounded by timbers that have been salvaged from the recent fire that spread across North San Diego County. They were specially milled for the walls, ceiling and bar top in the restaurant.

After finishing up your meal, you can go across the street and check out the vendors who set up their wares in a small, grassy park under the shady cover of oak trees. You can find deals on jewelry, hand-painted glassware, hand carved or craft items.

All in all, it's a great place to stop on your way to or back from somewhere or it is a worthwhile destination all by itself.

## Kawahara Discusses Much Needed Support for Colleges

It is gratifying to hear of President Barack Obama's strong support of America's community colleges. In his speeches regarding the value of higher education, he has stated forthrightly that community colleges are a vital component, serving 12 million people each year, almost half the under-graduate students in the United States. Without community colleges, millions would not be able to access the education and skills they need to succeed in the work-place.

He has committed his support to providing some of the necessary federal dollars for community colleges to fulfill this important mission.

As retired Pasadena City College staff and faculty, we applaud the president's vigorous support of community colleges. Over the years, we have seen firsthand the benefits PCC has provided to countless students who move on to four-year colleges or obtain the requisite skills to find employment in various vocational areas.

Along with its strong transfer programs, PCC offers an array of excellent vocational programs that can lead to meaningful employment. In these uncertain times, California's community colleges are being asked to step up and meet the challenge of training people to find jobs and help in our economic recovery.

With pressing budget constraints, the UC and CSU systems are cutting back on the number of students they accept. This has the consequence of putting more enrollment pressure on community colleges. Regrettably, we have seen this at PCC this fall with many students being turned away from needed classes due to fewer course offerings. These shortcomings do not augur well for preparing students for the 21st century economy.

Another large challenge for community colleges is to meet the needs of the so-called have-nots in our state. We have read a number of articles that have highlighted the gap between the haves and have-nots in our society.

This gap is currently the widest it has been in the last 25 years. This is not good for the stability and well-being of our state or country.

In California, the have-nots are made up largely of minority groups. With the open-door admission policy of community colleges, we have the clear challenge of meeting the educational and vocational needs of these minority students.

It is estimated that 80% of minority students in California enter higher education at the community college level. Thus, it is critically important that we successfully meet this challenge for the future of California.

The Pasadena City College Retirees Association is pledged to do its part in this challenge. We have provided thousands of dollars in student scholarships over the years and we will continue to do so.

We know how important it is to assist our students with concrete support. Recently, I sent a thank you letter to a retired faculty member for her \$5,000 contribution to our scholarship fund. This PCC retiree knows the value of a community college education.

We thank her for this generous gift.

In this context, we do appreciate your contributions to our student scholarship fund.

They are very much needed.

## Apologies to Alice

A heartfelt apology goes out to Alice Corey for underreporting her years of service as editor of the Retirees' Newsletter. The article and headline said she served for 14 years, when in fact, she edited the newsletter for 19 years. During her tenure as editor, she produced 38 issues of the newsletter.

Mea Culpa, Alice.

## The Retirees' Association Adds Eight Members

The PCC Retirees' Association added eight new members to its rolls with the announcement of those who retired in 2009. Five classified employees and three certificated decided it was time to start taking life a little easier.

Carl Jackson, who worked 10 years in Facilities Services, retired on March 3, 2009. Carol Kaser, a familiar face in Admissions and Records for 19 years, retired on March 1. Lillian Matthews retired after 23 years of service in the Scholarships and Financial Aid Office. William Petring called it quits after 30 years of working in Facilities Services.

Nancy Sciarra served at the college for 21 years in Fiscal Services.

In addition, Linda Hoover decided it was time to retire after teaching photography for 35.5 years. Eugene Pinchuk had 36 years of service in the Business and Computer Technology Division. Finally, Lou Rosenberg retired after 17 years in the English Division.

Each of these individuals became official members of the PCC Retirees' Association on the day they retired. We hope to see all of you at one or more of the many functions that the association sponsors throughout the year.

## Special Invitation for All Retirees

Mark your calendars now for the Fall Mixer at Bill Goldman's home in La Canada. It is from 2 p.m. to 5p.m. on Friday, Nov. 6. We want a really good turnout of all classified and certificated retirees. It is time to have some fun and renew old acquaintances at the same time.

## Another Petition Seeks Signatures Aimed at Taxing Retirees' Pension Benefits

By Hollis Stewart

Another attempt to take away your pension benefits is circulating in the form of an initiative petition, and there is no doubt that if this one doesn't get enough signatures to qualify for the ballot, the Certified Public Accountant who keeps pushing these initiatives will be ready with another one.

In the May 2009 edition of "Staying Connected," we brought to your attention an effort to promote a state constitutional amendment to "renegotiate" and lower the benefits of public employee pension contracts. We urged everyone not to sign any petitions that would get this "amendment" on the ballot. Due to the heightened awareness across the state, this attempt to gut our pensions failed, but now Paul McCauley, CPA, is pushing another pension initiative that is just as bad and even sneakier.

This one is called the "Tax on Pension Distributions and Health Care Benefits Initiative Statute." As we urged you before: do not sign this petition, warn your friends and relatives not to sign this petition, and speak against it whenever you have the opportunity.

Briefly, this initiative, if passed, would define all pension benefits, including Social Security, CalPERS, CalSTRS, IRS 401(a) employee trusts that are tax exempt under Sec 501(a), and IRS 403, and IRS 408 pension plans as taxable income. In other words almost every bit of money that retirees receive would become taxable even though at the time you contributed to those plans you were told that this retirement income would not be taxed.

Granted, some pension funds are already taxed, but this measure would sharply increase the economic burden on retirees as well as steeply increase income taxes on all Californians. At first, if the complex wording is understood, this new tax on pension income would just be folded into the regular income taxes. However after 2010, there would be a new tax schedule for people receiving pensions.

And these taxes would be steep. For example, those making between \$40,000 and \$50,000, the tax schedule shows \$5,000 plus 20% of the pension taxable income over \$40,000. Those making over \$75,000 but not over \$100,000, the amount would be \$15,750 plus 40% of the taxable income over \$75,000. The amounts get steeper as the income goes up.

Also, if a person receiving a public pension and other pension benefits in California greater than \$50,000 per year, is a non-resident then that individual would be subjected to an excise tax of 35% of the "fair market value" of all vested pension benefits. So, if by chance you decide to move to Florida, Arizona or some other place outside of California, then the fair market value of the present and future value of your pension would be ascertained, and you would be taxed the 35% excise tax on your vested amount that provides a yearly pension of \$50,000.

The whole thing is very convoluted and hard to understand. (For the record, I am not a tax accountant or a tax attorney, I am just a retiree who is reading and trying to comprehend all this stuff).

This whole mess has been fueled by articles in the press bemoaning that "Public Retirees" in California are receiving huge and unjust retirement pensions in the six figures. Well I did some checking for this article at the CalPERS website on Sept. 18, 2009 and found that the average CalPERS pension is \$1,985 per month or about \$23,808 per year. Approximately 78% of CalPERS retirees receive \$36,000 per year or less.

Furthermore, of the 476,000 CalPERS retirees, approximately 5,000 receive pensions of \$100,000 per year or more. This is about 1% of the total group. Just be aware of the exaggerations in the press and warn your friends and family to be cautious when signing any petition.

If this measure doesn't qualify for the ballot this time around, rest assured, another similar initiative will take its place."

## **Classified Retirees Urged to Get Involved**

By Hollis Stewart

The PCC Retirees' Association is a place for classified retirees to stay in touch with the people they worked with at the college. But sometimes I feel a bit sad when I look

around the room at a meeting or one of the events because I see very few classified employees and even fewer of those who worked in Facilities, Buildings and Grounds. It's as though these friends, who worked so hard to make the college the wonderful place it is, just disappeared after they retired.

At a recent Retirees' Board meeting, we talked about how to get more retired classified employees involved in the organization. As I thought this over, I concluded that the problem may be a reflection of what happened on campus during their working lives.

Several of my friends in facilities used to say, "We are supposed to be seen, but not heard." I think that culture could make one decide not be seen or heard as a retiree, too.

From my work on the Classified Senate I know that facilities employees were actively discouraged from getting involved with campus governance issues, and because of that, they felt left out.

But, that is not the way the Retirees' Association works. Every employee—gardener, custodian, craftsman, secretary, accountant, teacher, techie, and administrator who worked at the college is encouraged to become a part of this association.

We socialize at mixers/parties, go on trips to interesting places together, and raise funds for scholarships. So, if you have been considering getting involved, do it now. It's not hard. Getting involved means attending a mixer or signing up to go on the next outing.

The retirees' have a mixer scheduled for Friday, Nov. 6. It starts at 2 p.m. and goes until 5 p.m.

They are always fun because you get to see some of your friends and former colleagues and find out what the other retirees have been doing since they left the working world behind.

If you know other retirees, get them to go on a trip, too. Please spread the word that we want every PCC retiree to get involved. Everyone is welcome.

## Big Changes in Leadership at the College

### **Sugimoto Replaces Perfumo as President**

In case you don't live in the San Gabriel Valley, and you don't have former colleagues reporting on the happenings at PCC, you just may not know about the recent change in leadership at the college. Paulette Perfumo, who replaced Jim Kossler as president of the college in 2007, is out and Lisa Sugimoto is now holding the top administrative position at PCC—at least for the moment.

After this major administrative shakeup, the board of trustees has yet to explain Perfumo's abrupt departure. Anytime board members were asked for an explanation, they referred to a prepared statement that said that Perfumo left her position "for family reasons." She will continue "in an unspecific administrative role," according to the statement read by board president Jeanette Mann at a Aug. 25 meeting. She will be paid \$215,000 a year for the special administrative assignment, which is to "provide focus on projects related to legislation, advocacy and new grant opportunities."

Others on campus wonder why Perfumo's "family reasons" conveniently coincided with her job performance review, in which her effectiveness was evaluated by her management staff. For now, the board remains tight lipped about the reasons for Perfumo relinquishing her position of president.

Perfumo has been a controversial figure on campus since her first days on the job. Her selection was criticized from the beginning because the board ignored the recommendations of the hiring committee and selected Perfumo who wasn't even close to the top of the list.

Not long after being named president, she once again became embroiled in controversy. When the board told her to select a vehicle that the college would provide for her, Perfumo selected a \$54,000 Cadillac Deville that got only 14 mpg. A lot of people complained about her choice and the perception of a college president who had to make tough budget choices driving around in an expensive, gas-guzzling vehicle. After a number of newspaper articles appeared that were critical of her choice, Perfumo said she would change to a more economical car. She never did.

Not long before leaving the college, Perfumo was butting heads with faculty over the cancellation of the 2010 winter intersession. The board cancelled the intersession because Perfumo said no money was available. However, some of the classes were later restored when money was found.

On a positive note, the announcement of Perfumo's replacement was met with enthusiasm by the campus community. Lisa Sugimoto will serve as the interim president until a permanent president is named. Sugimoto is an alumna of PCC and has served for seven years as a counselor and six years as vice president of student and learning services.

## Combine Writing Memoirs with a First-class Vacation

Did you ever think about writing down some of your favorite family stories but never quite got around to it?

Well, it is possible to combine a great vacation with quality instruction on just how to write a family history or your memoirs.

When you're at home, there are plenty of distractions that keep you from the task, but how about changing the scene to Merano, Italy, nestled in the foothills of the spectacular Alps. That should be able to get those creative juices flowing.

Merano is more than one of the most picturesque and charming cities of the world. Its vineyards, stately architecture, iconic castles, and therapeutic waters have inspired and renewed thousands of visitors.

can be one of those visitors attending the Merano Writers' Workshops. The workshops feature world-class instruction on writing memoirs and family histories, as well as poetry, non-fiction writing and scripting.

For those who enjoy Italian films, they will also be shown in the evenings.

World-class instruction and one-on-one advice are not the only values. Nine days of first-class accommodations with two meals per day, including a gourmet five-course dinners, luxurious spa, sauna, indoor and outdoor pools, beverage credit and arrival transfer.

Think about joining Bernie DePaolis and PCC professors Jane Hallinger and Nick Curran on this trip and discover what your muse wants to say.

For those who would like to spend more time in Italy, an optional seven-day post tour will also be available.

Prices for a standard room, double occupancy is \$2,295. A junior suite will cost \$2,495. A person accompanying someone taking the workshop but not attending the sessions will pay \$1,795. The single supplement for the trip is \$500.

The prices quoted do not include airfare, but the trip coordinators are negotiating a group fare.

The deadline for signing up for the trip is Jan. 15, 2010.

For more information or to sign up for the trip, you can call Jane Hallinger at her office at (626) 585-7424 or at her home at (626) 791-2250. For those who prefer to use e-mail, they can write: [drdpcc@gmail.com](mailto:drdpcc@gmail.com), [jhallinger@hotmail.com](mailto:jhallinger@hotmail.com), or [mtravel@earthlink.net](mailto:mtravel@earthlink.net).

## Retirees Let Us Know What They're Doing

*Several old friends and former col-leagues included updates about them-selves when they sent in the information for the new PCC Retirees' Association directory. Because some of the letters were quite long, we included excerpts trying to include information most readers would find interesting. If you find that you enjoy reading other members' comments and reminiscences, please consider writing and letting everyone know what you are doing these days.*

### **Dordo Byles**

It must show that I have enough to do in retirement to just be getting around to reading the March 2006 Newsletter. Pat Savoie has had one grand life; I can't keep up with her. She was the one who got Doug and I on the "10 Nights of Theatre in London" living on The Strand and also touring all of Great Britain for an anniversary way back then.

The new Campus Center sounds good, that's where I got my start in my many faceted job—even naming The Cirdadian. Is it still called that?

Sorry to hear that Tony Georgilas has left us. I have a picture of him grinning in his Santa Claus suit with Marion and me on his lap, ready to tell all. Glad to hear the Pasadena Playhouse is still going. We worked on re-establishing it as "Curtain Raisers."

I have to write Leonard Knapp, formerly on the PERS Board, and Bill Goldmann. Our PERS group up here is very suspicious of this Richmond and his ethics. PERS is the largest and best retirement system in the country. I'm happy with this year's raise.

In 1942, people of all ages and genders signed up with Lockheed. We worked on the P38. Good 'ole FDR got us all into war production. I say we drew stabilizers for airplane tails. That is what we need now on our tails, as we are wobbling to coffee.

Harry K., don't think ill of "honey do lists," be glad you have someone to do for. I am without for some six years now.

So now I have plenty to do taking the elderly friends who don't drive to the doctors and shopping. "Loaves and Fishes" needs me. There is also Meals on Wheels, and patrolling the De Anza trail from little motor driven vehicles. It's going to be tough when one will have to wait for a shuttle, for we don't have easy transportation for those of us in the hills. Otherwise it is great up here in Atascadero out of the grand mobs.

### **Betty Kisbey**

We have had a busy life since retiring from PCC. I opened a large fabric shop (for quilters) in Lincoln, north of Sacramento, and I find myself very busy running a small business during these uncertain economic times. However, we have been quite successful and we are having fun too!

My husband, who flew with the Air Force and Air National Guard for 25 years, is building an airplane.

It started in our three-car garage but quickly moved to a large hangar at the Lincoln Municipal Airport.

He is having a wonderful time, and with renewing his pilot's license regularly, he can hardly wait till the plane can leave the ground!

Our children and pets are all fine. Just had a son complete his Master's in Engineering from University of California - Berkeley. Life is good! Give our best to everyone.

### **Lucile Daly-Pitts**

I thought this might be an excellent opportunity to bring all of my information up to date. I lost Paul on Feb. 4, 2007. It took several months to find my way, but I applied for a job at our local nursing home, and much to my surprise, I was hired—at age 85. I work three days a week as an Activities Assistant. I enjoy my job very much. I spend time with my friends and neighbors and get paid in the bargain.

I have acquired three new grandchildren, ages 6, 8, and 11. All this since I moved to Kansas. My son, Michael, and his family live right next door to me.

Since Paul's death I lease out the pasture and crop land and I have scaled back the number of animals we take care of. Now we have seven geese, nine ducks, two peacocks, three guineas and a dozen or so chickens. The barn cats are still too numerous to count, and I have two Great Pyrenees dogs to control the varmints. Best wishes to everyone.

### **Gene Miller**

Gene Miller writes that she is still alive at 82. She and her husband still live in Glendora. "Back surgery has ended my golf career."

She and her husband will return to Hawaii to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary this fall.

### **Suzanne Bravender**

The Wilshire Ebell club hosted a solo art show for Suzanne Bravender this past May. Originally planned to run for a month, her show featured 16 very large canvases. The exhibition was titled "Mostly Animals."

Because the show was so popular, the exhibit was held over through Aug. 5. On opening night, more than 200 people visited the exhibition. That night, the Ebell hosted a light repast for the attendees in its beautiful dark paneled "drawing" room.

### **Mel Donaldson**

While eating in Saladang's restaurant recently Bill Goldmann ran into Mel Donaldson, an old friend from the English department. With his extended family, Mel was celebrating a family member's birthday and was seated at a table nearby. Mel is still teaching at CSULA and UCLA and has published his third (or was it his fourth?) book.

Bill said Mel looks great.

**Just remember, it doesn't take long to drop a note and let us know what is going on in your life. Pick up a sheet of paper and jot down a few sentences; that's all it takes to have your information appear in the newsletter. Drop the note in the mail to the Retirees' Association at PCC.**

## **Goldmann and Bravender Tour Alaska**

Bill Goldmann and Suzanne Bravender finally made it to Alaska this past May. A brief flight from LAX brought them to the Anchorage Int'l Airport where they were greeted by a huge sign welcoming them to Anchorage, courtesy of Alaska's former governor, Sarah Palin.

Anchorage is a city of several hundred thousand, crisscrossed by freeways and features a very serviceable downtown area.

Baby huskies are sold on most streets. Huge super stores are everywhere, selling tires, sleds, clothing, green groceries, baked goods, et al, all at the same site. Most stores house restaurants, too. They were told that the nearest Wal-Mart was in Whitehorse!

Bill and Suzanne were bussed to Denali National Park (huge and beautiful) and took the Alaska Railroad back to Wasilla. On the way, they visited the Mendenhall Glacier and stopped in towns like Talkeetna. They visited monuments dedicated to the bravery of Native Alaskans during World War II.

Although they waited all morning for weather over Mt McKinley to clear, it never did, so they never saw the mountain. However, they were able to see plenty of moose and bears; they were everywhere.

In some unnamed village, Suzanne rode a dog sled on wheels, driven by eight dogs for about a quarter mile. Some fun!

After a few days of traveling by train and bus, they boarded Celebrity's ship, the Millennium, for a seven-day cruise down the inland passage to Vancouver.

Highlights included a trip to Seward where they boarded the ship. Stops included tours of Skagway (still a frontier town), Juneau (a small but vibrant capital city), a long view of the Hubbard glacier (still growing), Hunnah (home of the longest zip line in the world but an undistinguished village otherwise), Ketchikan (touristy but the back woods Indian villages were terrific), and finally Vancouver.

Bill says the cruise was great – five or six restaurants on board, a gym, comfortable rooms, a movie theater and loads of other amenities.

But they will very much miss the cordiality, the easy-going attitude of the Alaskans, and the general sense of freedom that seems to permeate their culture. The downside, he said, is always LAX.

## In Memoriam

### Ken Johnson instructor, radio engineer dies

Ken Johnson, a longtime instructor at PCC and radio engineer, died Friday, Oct. 2 at his home in Arcadia. He was 89 when he succumbed to esophageal cancer.

Ken grew up in rural South Range, Wisconsin. As a young man, he moved to New York to find work, but his brother-in-law recognized that he was college material and arranged for him to attend Iowa Wesleyan College. However, his college career was cut short when he was drafted.

Perhaps the luckiest break in his life came during WWII when he was able to help a flustered sergeant with some radio problems he was having. That sergeant gave him the chance to join the Signal Corps and leave the rifle company and its 80 percent casualty rate behind. As part of the 5th Division, he stormed the beaches of Normandy on D+2. He received the Bronze Star and was promoted to sergeant during his brief military career.

After the war, he worked several jobs before finishing his degree and beginning to teach electronics at Pasadena City College. At PCC, he successfully coached hundreds toward their amateur radio license. Ken had friends all over the world.

He left PCC in 1980 after 27 years to take a full-time job with the Los Angeles Dodgers as a radio engineer for the Spanish-language KWKW radio station.

Working with Jaime Jarrin, he saw four World Series Championships, and he collected countless stories he was always willing to share. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make donations to the John Wayne Cancer Institute or Vitas Hospice Charitable Fund.

## Richard Palermo Passed Away Last July

Richard Palermo, former director of Assessment and Research, passed away on July 23, 2009.

Richard was a member of the PCC community for 16 years before he retired in 1999. He died of complications from Parkinson's Disease at the age of 67. He is survived by his brother, sisters, nieces and nephews.

## Ray Coldiron Loses Battle with Cancer

Ray Coldiron, who retired in December 2004 after 20 years at PCC, passed away in May after his second bout with cancer. He spent his career at PCC working in both the Social Sciences and Physical Education Divisions.

Ray was raised in Ohio, and became an All-American lacrosse player at Ohio Wesleyan University.

Before coming to PCC, he worked at several high schools as a football and wrestling coach.

As an assistant football coach at PCC, Ray worked with the linebackers and special teams.

During his time as an assistant football coach, the Lancers won two bowl games, one in 1990 and the other in 1992. He also spent a brief time as head men's volleyball coach, before shifting his focus to fencing. He and instructor Bonnie Lee started the very popular fencing club at the college.

One of Ray's passions was promoting and spreading understanding of American Indian culture. He was as comfortable in the classroom teaching American Indian

history as he was with an epee and foil. Ray leaves Janeen, his wife of 46 years,

a son, daughter and three grandchildren. Anyone wishing to make a donation in Ray's name can contribute to the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, 825 Eastlake Ave. E, P.O. Box 19023, Seattle, WA, 98109 or to the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Library, Old Bryn Highway, Sequim, WA 98382.

**You may have noticed that some of the information on this page is a little sparse. We have retirees and families who send in information when a loved one passes away, and others forget to notify the college or the retirees' group. If you hear that someone has passed away, please let us know.**

## Recognizing Symptoms of a Stroke and Acting Fast Can Save Lives

By Marj Vickers

Most people assume that they will be able to recognize the signs of a serious medical problem if one should affect them. However, the reality is that many people often ignore symptoms of a stroke and brush them off as something that will pass. Or if they do suspect they might have had a stroke, they don't get medical attention soon enough.

If a stroke victim can get to a hospital within three hours, the effects of a stroke can be totally reversed. It is imperative that a stroke be recognized, diagnosed, and medically treated within three hours.

If you suspect that someone might have had a stroke, ask him to perform three tasks: (1) Ask the person to smile. (2) Ask the person to talk and speak a simple sentence. It should be coherent. (3) Ask him to raise both arms.

Also ask the person to stick out his tongue. If the tongue is crooked, or if it goes to one side or the other, this also indicates a stroke. If the person has trouble performing any of the three tasks mentioned above, call 911 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher. Remember, if a person gets to the hospital in three hours, the effects can be reversed.

## Scholarships Awarded to Outstanding Students

The Retirees' Association awarded seven \$1,000 scholarships to outstanding students at the end of the school year.

Although the retirees normally give 12 scholarships, the effect of uncertain economic conditions took a toll on the scholarship fund. This year the association could only award seven scholarships.

The outstanding students who received recognition and a check from the Retirees' Association included Vanessa Gomez, an accounting major with a 3.4 gpa. Karolina Bacherikove, earned recognition for maintaining a 3.9 gpa while majoring in art and critical studies in cinema.

Shuangshuang Chen majored in chemistry and earned an overall 3.9 gpa. Collin Yu was a biology major with a 3.6 gpa. Dorian Danic was a pre-med major with a 4.0 gpa.

Samuel Lauda earned a 4.0 gpa and majored in physics. Miheer Shah majored in chemical engineering and managed to maintain a 4.0 gpa.

These scholarships are extremely important to the students who receive them. In many cases, they help ensure that a student can afford to go to college for another semester.

When tax time rolls around this year, and you need a deduction, think about writing a check to the Retirees' Association Scholarship Fund. Actually, you don't have to wait for the tax man to come knocking, you can mail in a check any time.

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