



CHABOT COLLEGE -
LAS POSITAS COLLEGE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED EMPLOYEES
SEPTEMBER 2006

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer of 2006 will be remembered by all of us in the Bay Area as the time of a long-lasting, record-breaking heat wave which killed people, plants, cattle, transformers, and ambition. Suddenly Al Gore became increasingly relevant! Now that the worst is over, we're ready to enjoy the autumn, if and when it ever arrives.

Since the last newsletter, your CARE board has been busy making plans for our next reunion, slated for Saturday, January 20th, 2007 at the San Ramon Golf Club. Mark your calendars now! Our June meeting was held at the Las Positas campus, and it was a stimulating afternoon for all of us. LPC has bloomed into a beautiful campus, with a number of new buildings and more to come. If you haven't been to LPC in awhile, take a drive there. You'll be surprised at the many wonderful changes. LPC's Foundation is also growing, enlisting the services of a number of business people in the area. Their recent good news was that the Livermore Foresters have contributed \$100,000 to the foundation. At Chabot College, staff members have been heartened at the news that because of California's booming economy, the governor has been able to restore the "borrowed" funds which caused such painful staff and program cuts last spring. Classified staff who lost their jobs have all been hired back. Let's hope that both colleges stay healthy and productive.

The CARE board is also keeping a close watch on the status of retiree medical benefits. Health care costs are soaring, and the District is always looking for ways to keep their costs under control. Your board will take an active role in monitoring developments and defending our current status if necessary. Glenys Wilson is doing her usual great job for us, and John McKinley and Past President Art Larson continue to take an active role. In addition, Sharon Trethan, with her broad knowledge of district operations,

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is an invaluable resource. We are so lucky to have people of this caliber working on our behalf!

Our next Board meeting will be September 21, 11:00 a.m., at the San Ramon Golf Club. We will be finalizing changes to our by-laws, talking about the new contract and its impact on current retirees, and, of course, planning our next reunion.

Have you paid your yearly dues yet? If not, NOW IS THE TIME TO SEND THEM IN. Not only are you paying for newsletter costs, you are also (and this year, this is especially important) helping us meet the costs involved with our work on the medical benefits issues. CARE is working for all of you!

Helen Bridge, President
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NEW RETIREES

Chabot

Suzanne Blackmon - June 06
Robert Collins - May 06
Robert Curry - August 06
Helene Looze - May 06
Lois Machado - July 06
Orlando Pascoa - May 06

District

Gary Craig (Trustee) - July 05
Bettina Miller - July 06

Las Positas

Connie Bish - June 06
Peggy Carter - June 06
Sharron DuPree - December 05
Eric Golanty - June 06
Maria Pellinen - May 06
Lucy Sponsler - May 06
Arthur Tenbrink - May 06

News from Chabot

Homecoming is scheduled for Saturday, October 21, 1:00 p.m., Chabot College football field. Chabot vs. Modesto J.C. CARE members will be admitted free of charge. There will be a barbeque in celebration of Chabot College's 45th anniversary. For additional information, call Karen at (510) 723-6640.

The Community Education Fall brochure is available for a fee upon request. Call (510) 723-6665.

Dr. Dennis Chowenhill was the recipient of the Reed Buffington Award for 2006.

Book Recommendation

From Helen Bridge

Knowing how reading tastes vary, I rarely recommend books to others. I'll make an exception, though, for a book I read this summer. If I were still teaching, I'd recommend it to every teacher in the district, and to my students as well.

We all know that our world is changing at an increasingly rapid pace, and so is the global role of the USA. Globalization is altering everything we thought we knew about SO many subjects, and no one knows more about globalization than Thomas Friedman. His book, "The World is Flat," is a fascinating, in-depth look at how world manufacturing and trade is now happening—and it's truly astonishing. Full of examples, anecdotes, and inside stories about companies we know (Walmart, UPS, Dell, for example), this book is an educational must. And the best thing is that it's so engagingly written it's hard to put down.

Read "The World is Flat." You'll learn a lot. I certainly did!

News from Las Positas

On November 7, 2006 Las Positas will host its first inter-college basketball tournament. The men's team will play College of Marin and the women's team will host Diablo Valley College in this double header.

The Multi-Disciplinary Educational Building is right on schedule with the interior walls being installed at this time.

Deaths

Francisco Calbonero (6/18/06)
 Thomas Driscoll (5/24/06)
 William Hopper (9/9/06)
 Joseph Jurado (6/5/06)
 Eric Nelson (5/4/06)
 Henry Vigil (5/24/05)

Reminiscences

of Arylene Marsh

How many community college teachers have had the opportunity to help build, from scratch, a foundation for the fine colleges which Chabot and Las Positas have become?

I had the good fortune to do so when I joined the faculty at Chabot in the second year of its existence. At that time, there were but five women faculty members. There was no Health Science Division and no Dean of Vocational Education. My assignment was to create a Medical Assisting program, the first college Health Services program in the community.

The entire campus consisted of temporary housing structures salvaged from a friendly college neighbor. Each faculty office housed six occupants. The offices were rustic, scanty, and conducive to memorable friendships. We all survived, and very well. Classrooms were stark and lacking equipment. Because of this, faculty and students were challenged to be creative.

That early ramshackle campus was the scene of successful academic-civic teamwork among new administration, staff, faculty and students. I am proud to have been a part of Chabot's early developmental years.

What does one do, then, after retiring from a rewarding career? Life for these twenty-nine years post Chabot has been different but satisfying for me. I have traveled in and out of the country, enjoyed mediocre golf, done lap swimming and ocean swims, and have worked as a community volunteer in various services. I also enrolled at our Santa Cruz community college, Cabrillo, for several semesters of music and photography. My husband and I take daily walks to the beach with our dog.

Throughout our retirement years, we have enjoyed visits from our children, grandchildren, former colleagues and students. I recently celebrated our sixty-fourth wedding anniversary with my husband, Jack, who was the Dean of Instruction during Chabot's first year. Our three children have careers in education as do two of our seven grandchildren, with two more working toward same. Our six-year-old great granddaughter is undecided at this point.

My best wishes to all of my Chabot pioneering friends and to those who have followed us.

Working Hard to Preserve a Masterpiece

By Judy Porta

Ah, retirement...dreams of travel and catching up on all the books I've bought but not yet read. Instead, my husband and I are working virtually full-time as volunteers, trying to save a great National Historic Landmark designed by architect Bernard Maybeck. The First Church of Christ,

Scientist, Berkeley, has stood four blocks south of the UC campus since 1910. It desperately needs a new roof, plus some modest seismic strengthening.

We helped launch a non-denominational, non-profit organization, the Friends of First Church Berkeley. Although the Friends are only three years old, we have over 280 members.

I now have a shelf filled with "How To" books - on fund raising, grant writing, database software and other essentials. Last year we were honored to receive *Save America's Treasures* federal matching grant for the roof project. These grants are administered by the National Park Service and are designed to save America's cultural treasures. This year, we were again honored to receive an Architectural Conservation Matching Grant from the Getty Foundation. These grants are given to help preserve cultural treasures from around the world. Both of the awards are very competitive. They affirm the national and international significance of this amazing building.

Maybeck is considered one of America's finest architects and First Church is considered his masterpiece. In it, he used a number of architectural styles including Romanesque, Gothic, Byzantine, and Craftsman, to create a harmonious whole. He handled structure, space, color and light with the touch of a genius.

We host many tours of the church, including a free Architectural Tour on the first Sunday of every month. (It meets at 12:15, just after the morning service.) We also give tours for many college classes, museum groups, architects, Maybeck scholars, and of course tourists and neighbors. It is my greatest joy to share the beauty of the Church with others.

Take a peek inside the church at our website: www.FriendsOfFirst Church.org.

Come by for a tour, and perhaps consider joining the Friends.

What Have I Been Doing All This Time?

By John McKinley

Twenty-five years since I retired? And, I am only 87! Unbelievable! Those numbers should give hope to those of you who are wondering how long retirement may last.

What have I been doing all this time? Truthfully, I have probably been goofing off too much, spending too much time reading the morning paper, checking the news on my computers and taking advantage of the fact that I really have very few deadlines to meet, and that is a great reward of retirement. Of course, this is not a full picture.

Mine is a large family and it gives Jackie and me many excuses to get together with everyone, despite their distances from us. We now have 10 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren – thankfully, all are healthy and busy with their lives. This year we have traveled to Illinois for a grandson wedding, to Utah for a grandson University graduation, and to Steamboat Springs, CO for a family campout (24 came). I enjoy the chances I occasionally have, with a parade of weddings, births and graduations, to give a little help here and a lift there. I never feel alone!

Flower shows, fairs and computer expos have always been fun places for me to visit. The only problem with going to flower shows is that we end up bringing new plants home, and since all of our plants are in pots at our small yard, the question is "What to throw or give away (would YOU like an orchid or two?)" With the Apple Computer Expo the problem increases in cost. But, I really am having fun with my new Apple MINI computer – and the 20" monitor that I just had to have! Add in the lectures at the

Commonwealth Club, SIRS seniors' group and a few A's baseball games, and it does make for an interesting retirement life for Jackie and me.

One of the activities I talk most about but still have done little is writing the family history. It is so much more enjoyable to do the research than to do the writing. Yet, this I must do.

Jackie and I have seen some of the more painful side of life as we have delivered food baskets to AIDS victims in Richmond and Pittsburg, part of the service work of our church.

We are mindful of our good fortune at having 25 years of health insurance from the District. It is painful to see the amount of money that is being spent by some of our older friends for medical benefits. That is just one of several reasons why I appreciate my membership in CARE. Medical benefits are always under threat of change and CARE will be our first line of defense. For me, it is also the open door to keep in touch with some of the folks with whom I have worked over the years—friends of many years.

Although I stopped my retirement counseling seven years ago, I invite anyone who has gotten hung up on a problem with STRS or PERS to call me at 1-925-968-1237 and let me be your ombudsman
.....Greetings to each of you.

Memories of Students

Sophia

By Juliette A. Bryson

Sophia enrolled in several Chemistry classes when I was teaching at Chabot. She wanted to be a nurse, but she also wanted to have a four-year degree. Like many other students, Sophia was nervous and a little

scared about Chemistry. She studied very hard and asked lots of questions. She was never bashful about taking advantage of faculty office hours. Due to her perseverance, she usually did well in the classes. Ultimately, Sophia transferred to UC Davis.

At UC Davis, Sophia majored in one of the Biological Sciences. She also took advantage of the opportunity to work in a couple of research labs. Her experiences in the labs were varied and she did not always have a supportive environment. I cannot remember the exact sequence of events, but I believe that Sophia worked for a couple of years before returning to her first love, nursing. She was admitted to Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. Creighton did not accept some of her coursework, so it was necessary to repeat several courses in the process of obtaining her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing. Sophia's clinical experiences while in Omaha were rewarding and she stayed there as a nurse for a number of years.

Ultimately, however, Sophia missed the Bay Area. In addition, her grandmother's health was failing. Thus Sophia returned to the Bay Area, found a nursing position, and assisted in the care of her grandmother. For a number of years, Sophia worked in the ICU at Stanford Hospital. While there, she visited me during a very short hospital stay at Kaiser Walnut Creek and made sure that I was well taken care of. Sophia really enjoyed her work at Stanford because of the variety of patients she saw and the use of cutting edge technology. She felt that it really kept her sharp. However, her work was mostly on the late shift and it began to take a toll.

Sophia has always sought new experiences. As a result of caring for her grandmother, she became intrigued with Hospice. She has worked with Hospice for a couple of years now and continued to work one

day/night a week at Stanford to keep herself current.

Now Sophia is considering new options, including a possible MBA degree. It has been such a pleasure for me to watch this young woman develop over the years. I am very proud to have played a roll in supporting and encouraging her to explore her potential and to believe in herself.

Donald Felts

By Don Nilson

My first encounter with Don Felts was about 1967 when I was still in the garage business and was a part-time instructor at Chabot College. Through our combined efforts we brought the automotive apprentice classes to Chabot College and other Bay Area community colleges. Don was the winner of the Bank of America Award for Automotive Technical Perfection in 1966 and was the product of Norman Gibbs and Melvin Edwards for most of his automotive degree work. For those of you who remember the Indianapolis races shown at the Chabot Campus Theater, Don Felts was the "spark plug" that triggered a large income to the Chabot Autotech Club.

Upon graduation, Don became a technical writer for National Automotive Manuals where he, among other noted accomplishments, wrote the first smog manual used by the California Highway Patrol. From 1970 through 1972 he started his career at Dahl Chevrolet as an apprentice. Because of his Chabot College Degree he became a journeyman in only two years and was promoted to High Performance Specialist and was responsible for all the tune-up work on Corvettes and Z28 Cameros. By 1974 he became a Service Writer and then Assistant Manager of the repair shop.

From 1974 through 1976 he joined Sun Electric Corporation as a Sales and Service Representative which included Berkeley, Oakland, Alameda, San Leandro and Castro Valley. At this time he worked closely with the Chabot Autotech Club and Automotive Technician Associates to produce the Free Auto Inspections held at Southland Mall. During his two years with Sun Electric he was continually ranked within the top three Sales Reps for the Western Region. The last six months at Sun Electric he was one of the top five Sales Reps in the country.

From 1976 through 1986 Don joined the staff of the California State Automobile Association as the Manager of Fleet Service and Physical Damage Training. As manager he had the responsibility for over 1200 vehicles and tow trucks. This included developing the replacement vehicle list each year, ordering all replacement vehicles, and disposing of all vehicles that were replaced. He was also responsible for the fleet garages and repair programs throughout Northern California and Nevada. As manager he was involved in the development of all Mechanical Training classes and teaching those classes to Claims Adjusters for their Insurance Operation.

In 1997 Don was promoted to Vice President, Human Resources and Physical Resources where he developed the first ever CSAA Early Retirement Program which eventually resulted in a reduction of staff of 1500 employees (of 6500). He formed the Risk Management Department called Pacific Lighthouse which by 1999 reduced cost of organizational risk from a high of \$12.3 million in 1997 to \$7.6 million in 1999. He also implemented the Just-In-Time Inventory System to reduce the excess inventory at CSAA's Distribution Center, resulting in a savings of \$12 million. Last, but not least, he reduced the fleet of vehicles from 1500 to 900.

In 1998 Don resumed leadership of the Automotive Services Division to lead a process of re-engineering with ongoing programs with service enhancements that raised the member satisfaction rating to 96%, the highest in CSAA history. His "Circle of Care" strategy focused on the creation of new products and services, and thus the generation of revenue. It was later adopted on an AAA National level.

From 2000 to May 2002 he became Corporate Vice President, Automotive and e-Business Services, being responsible for strategic planning and operational management of two divisions, including management of 612 employees and a \$160 million budget. From May 2002 to January 2004 as Senior Vice President, Automotive and e-Business Services he lead the e-Business Group and expanded the web-based internet site. He was now responsible for 1005 employees and a \$185 million budget. From January 2004 to June 2006 as Senior Vice President, Chief of Automotive Strategy for CSAA he played a key roll in reshaping the Automotive Strategy for the federation of clubs in North America.

With Don's drive to excel and his basic education at Chabot College, plus ongoing completion of numerous courses related to management, he represents goals that all teachers wish for their students. I feel honored to have shared a small piece of his life.

Places to Go

Castro Valley Adult School Chamber Orchestra - November 16, 2006, 7:30 p.m.
Castro Valley Center for the Arts, 19501 Redwood Rd., Castro Valley.

Works to be performed include Violin Concerto in D Major by P. Tchaikowsky (with violin soloist David Southorn) and Polovetsian Dances from "Prince Igor" by A. Borodine.

Douglas Morrison Theatre, 22311 N. Third St., Hayward, CA 94541. Performing The Sound of Music September 29 through October 29, 2006. For specific information, call (510) 881-6777.

"Lost" Retirees

We do not have current addresses for the following retirees: **Mason Layman, Virginia MacCrossen, Allen Wall**. If anyone knows how to locate these individuals, please let us know.

REUNION REMINDER

Plan to attend CARE's reunion on Saturday, January 20, 2007 at the San Ramon Golf Club. Plans are underway to make this reunion enjoyable for all who attend. Particulars will be included in the December newsletter.

CARE Fund

Each year the CARE Fund, subject to ample donations and investment returns, gives money to each of the colleges to be spent on areas of greatest concern to the presidents of the colleges. Private donations help in a small way to ease the financial burdens being experienced. Please be as generous as you can this year to assist our colleges.

Complete the coupon on the last page. Make your check payable to Chabot-LPC Foundation and in the "For:" section in the lower left, write in CARE Fund. Then send the completed coupon along with your check to Clyde Allen at the address indicated on the coupon.

Attached Forms

In addition to the coupon to use when donating to the CARE Fund, a form is attached to include with your dues for 2007. President Helen Bridge in her message spelled out the importance of paying dues, and we thank you for supporting CARE in this way.