

Sixteen Retirees Honored at Luncheon

Sixteen new retirees from GCCCD were honored on May 2, 2008, at a special luncheon at the Ronald Reagan Community Center in El Cajon. Attending also were the Chancellor, college presidents, Board members, and other district and college leaders, as well as guests of the retirees.

The retirees being honored included eleven classified, three counselors and two instructors. Eight of the retirees were from Grossmont College, seven from Cuyamaca College and one from the district. Our apologies to several retirees who were not mentioned in our new retirees article in the March, 2008 Grapevine. They include David Agosto, Counselor, Grossmont College; Sandy Lyon, Assistant Dean-EOPS, Cuyamaca College; Linda Macosky, Administrative Secretary, Grossmont College; and Ben Newkirk, Instructor, Grossmont College. Also, we jumped the gun in that article by including Melodee Takasugi, who'll be retiring at a later time.

Photos by
Grossmont College photographer
Stephen Harvey

More photos on p. 7.



Drew Massicot at the piano



Pam and Ben Newkirk, Michael (Linda's son) and Linda Macosky



Left to Right: Arlene Stone, Linda Macosky, Carol Ruiz, Ben Newkirk, Marsha Fralick, Nancy Skoglund, Roz Scott, Val Eskridge and Hsiu Chih Jennings.

Editor's Comments

by Tom Scanlan



Dear Readers: this will be one of my final editorials. I plan to retire from this job after the March, 2009, issue of

Grapevine. That issue, incidentally, will culminate twenty continuous years of my involvement with this newsletter, which began when I retired in June 1990. During those twenty years, I gathered news, wrote articles, took photographs, wrote book reviews and did lots of editing and co-editing—and I learned a lot.

Although there are only three issues of Grapevine each year, those deadlines always roll around sooner than I expect, even more so these past few years. I have four growing grandkids I'd like to spend more time with. There are also places I still want to visit and friends and relatives who live far away. There's a growing stack of books I've promised myself to read. "...and miles to go before I sleep" (Robert Frost). And, unfortunately, the number of doctor visits seems to increase at this time of life, cutting into both time and energy, as too many of you are finding out for yourselves.

Twenty years later, there are very few people retiring from GCCCD that I once worked with or knew. It makes sense that a more recent retiree could relate better to retiree matters as they now occur.

Whoever takes over this job, you'll be working with some of the best and most capable people you can imagine. Their contributions to this newsletter are a major part of why I've done this job for as long as I have. Bob Steinbach has been absolutely great to work with. His editorials and especially his Driftwood columns have helped make Grapevine both more informative and more enjoyable. Sirkka Huovila, our word processor and layout expert, has such skill and creativity that all I need do anymore is provide words and pictures and she arranges them and embellishes them into a newsletter that looks world-class. Our photographers, Stephen Harvey at Grossmont and Phu Nguyen at Cuyamaca, provide an invaluable source of photographs of campus events and personnel. These co-workers are a journalist's 'dream team' because they have left Bob and I free to investigate, report and write. Those of you who send in photos and articles and letters make our job even easier and continue to

make the Grapevine a true newsletter. Columns like Mary Ann Beverly's "Guess Who" bring another level of enjoyment to our readers.

Editing the Grapevine doesn't require a journalism background, even though one of our past editors, Pat Higgins, certainly had exceptional journalistic credentials. Bob Steinbach and I are both amateur journalists, in the true sense of the word. We do this because we enjoy it. Bob certainly has as many other things competing for his time as I do, but he meets every deadline (often prompting me to do the same). I'm going to feel pretty badly if one of you don't step in and work with Bob and the rest of the Grapevine staff after I've retired.

Call me or e-mail me or write to me about editing the Grapevine, to start with the July, 2009 issue. I will answer any questions you might have and if you take the job, I'll work with you during the transition period until you feel comfortable with editing California's best community college retirees' newsletter.



Grapevine editor at work.

The Grapevine is a free newspaper for retirees of Cuyamaca and Grossmont Colleges, published three times yearly. The GCCCD Grapevine is also available on the District Web site at www.gcccd.edu/retirees/grapevine.htm

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The Grapevine
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Community College District
8800 Grossmont College Drive
El Cajon, CA 92020

or email to:
tom.scanlan@gcccd.edu

The Grapevine is published in November, March, and July. Deadline for submission is the 10th of the month before publication.

Gordy Shields Sets New National Record for Cyclists 90 and Older



On April 11, 2008, one of our first retirees pedaled his way to a new cycling record for his age group on Fiesta Island in San Diego. He sped 20 Kilometers in just under 45 minutes early on a chilly morning that felt more like winter than spring. The previous record was 57 minutes. Not even close! It's likely that this new record will stand for quite a while.

Shields already held the national time trial cycling record in the 80-84 and 85-89 age group. That's especially remarkable when you consider that he didn't start cycling until he was 50. Gordy switched to cycling from tennis at that age because his back was giving him problems.

Gordy was a counselor at Grossmont College from 1965 until his

retirement in 1979. Since then, he usually rides nearly every day, averaging about 500 miles a month. Last year, though, was not an easy year. He spent several months helping his wife of 62 years, Olwyn, recover from hip replacement surgery. He also had to deal with problems of his own, including cataract and hernia surgery. And his back.

This year, although he managed to set a new record, his back problem has continued to worsen and has now reached the point where he's on pain medication and is unable to ride until surgery fixes his spinal stenosis. He told me that he was glad that he was able to set that new record while he still could. He's not certain when he'll have the surgery or how well it will work, but he did tell me he'd still like to set a new time record for cyclists 95 and older if he gets the chance. Pretty amazing when you consider that some of us who are years younger are happy enough to make it to the bathroom on time.

(This article was based, in part, on a much more detailed article by San Diego Union Tribune writer, Don Norcross, in the April 12 edition of that newspaper) ts

Readers Write



Len Pelletiri wrote:

People everywhere (in my dreams) ask, "What ever happened to that great English teacher, Len Pelletiri, after he retired -1986,

was it? He married Mary Rose of the Counseling Department, then slipped into peaceful and much-deserved domestic tranquility and obscurity, I guess."

Well, I haven't written yet another book, and we've traveled quite a bit, but who hasn't. Have you noted the airports? What I've really done is to live on and love my fixed income (thank you, GC) and do Good Samaritan stuff, in Mexico, San Diego and abroad. I tried tennis, fine food and theatre tickets, but found that doing "wonderful" things like helping to build a school in Tijuana and "adopting" an Afghan family was more soul-satisfying.

My latest kick was a whirlwind Peace-Corps-type pilgrimage. From March 2 to 15, 2008 five of us from First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego toured Manila and the island of Negros, visiting seven of the 27 UU

churches in the Philippines, including our sister-church in a mountain village named Malingin. We planted seeds for several substantial projects such as a safe electrical system for that village, plans for production of a Ready To Use Food (think vitamin-enriched peanut butter), technical help with a coastal-erosion problem, and started a collaboration between our headquarters and the main public library in Dumaguete, the capitol, to install a ten-carel computer room. We even visited the grave of Rev. Toribio Quimada, founder of the UU Church of the Philippines, who was eventually shot and burned to death in his own home for his attempts at social reform for the poor.

And that's not even mentioning the presents, inspiration and love we exchanged with the scores of friendly people we met as we practiced service as our prayer. By e-mail and Skype, we're continuing to work on these and other projects, and Mary Rose and I only wish we had started with each other earlier. At 81, my life still has meaning. (see photos in Digital Driftwood)

Peggy Paul wrote:

Just a note to let you know how much I appreciate your work on publishing the



GCCCD Grapevine. I enjoy following the "comings and going" of former colleagues.

George and I were pleasantly surprised to receive a phone call and visit from my

former boss, Les Phillips, on June 6. He and Virginia were in Olathe to visit with members of Virginia's family. Les still looks the same and says it's hard to remember that he retired in 1982. He and Virginia drove from their home in Sun City, AZ, and after a few days with family here, were heading to Texas to attend the wedding of one of their granddaughters before returning home.

Olathe has not suffered damage from the storms and floods that have plagued the Midwest this year. The weather and Mother Nature seem to have gone wild this past year or so.

Take care and keep publishing!

(editor's note: Les Phillips was an instructor at Grossmont College and later became Dean of the Division of Sciences and Math. Peggy was his secretary at that time.)



Les Phillips

Driftwood

by Bob Steinbach

Snippets of gossip that have been burnished by friends and washed up on the Grapevine desk.



Looking for material for this column, I sent out 27 emails and got 3 responses. A new approach seems appropriate, especially if I want to hear from those of you without email. The next Driftwood will have a theme: *Hobbies – For Fun Or Profit*. Interpret “hobby” loosely, any activity which gives you joy many times, or just last week, or just today. Drop me a line about your favorite activity; send a picture; let’s compare notes. My contribution: I spend a lot of time at my computer: editing home movies for a daughter, upgrading old travel journals, discussing cosmology theories with a college classmate by email and reading links he recommends. Virginia gets great joy from babysitting the four local grandchildren ages six months to 17 years. Grandchild number 11 is due in September.

Did you know that the San Diego County Grand Jury investigated citizen

complaints against the five San Diego County community college districts? The complete report is available at: http://www.sdcountry.ca.gov/grandjury/reports/2007_2008/ethics101.pdf



Stan Claussen writes, “I visited my old office mate **Harry McCune** in May to assist him in reconstructing his water supply system



on his Jamul ranch, which as you probably know was pretty much destroyed in the fire last year.

“I had lunch with **Mel and Diana Amov** where I was surprised to learn that my old UF sidekick was now negotiating for ... uh administrators. How times do change.



“In Bellingham, Washington I am producing radio programs for the radio drama troupe at the American Museum of Radio and Electricity, the premiere radio museum in the United States, and one that has its own radio station. I also am a production assistant on “The Chuckanut Radio Hour,” which will

have as its guest author none other than Garrison Keillor in September. You can check out my dramas and mysteries at www.midnightmysteryplayers.com.” (see pictures in Second Press)



Bob Holden’s latest expedition took him to: Santiago, Buenos Aires, a winery in Montevideo, Puerto Zombo, Argentina (800,000 penguins), the Falkland Islands (some more penguins), Cape Horn (more penguins) where he managed to do his water aerobics, Antarctica where he toured a Chilean airbase, a Chinese research center and a Russian base, Tierra Del Fuego Park and Usualala at the end of the world, then back to Santiago for 3 more days.



Bob James and Helen spent three weeks in Switzerland in June. He comments, “Anyone interested in great, not too expensive, package trips can contact Untours.com who have great

Driftwood cont. on the next page.

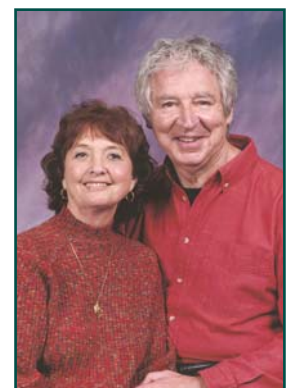
Digital Driftwood: Pictures from Retirees



Look what turned up. Who remembers the year? Does anyone have any amusing anecdotes about the Pleasure Faires?



Len Pelletiri toured Manila and visited churches in Philippines. See the article in the “Readers Write” section on page 3.



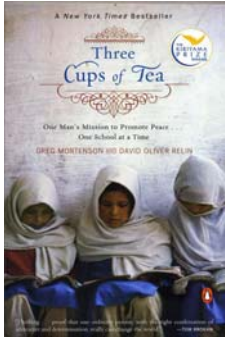
Mary Rose and Len Pelletiri

Biblio-files

by Tom Scanlan



Three Cups of Tea. Greg Mortenson & David Oliver Relin (Penguin Books, 2006) ***



Bob Steinbach loaned me a copy of this marvelous book by way of Joanne Prescott, who brought it to our monthly

Second Tuesday Retiree's Breakfast a few months ago. I liked it well enough that I've already recommended it to both of my daughters and several other friends. I recommend it to all of you, whether your reading tastes are for fiction or non-fiction (this is non-fiction that reads like a novel), and whether you prefer adventure, mystery, humor, inspirational, whatever; you'll find it all in this book.

Greg Mortenson is an American who earned enough money working part-time as a medic in Emergency rooms late at night to support his real love, mountain climbing. He nearly loses his life on a failed effort to scale K2, but is saved by the generosity of the people in a remote Pakistani village he stumbles into after losing his way back down the mountain. He vows to repay the village and promises their leader, whom he has befriended, that he will build them a school house so that the children will not have to be schooled outdoors with nothing but sticks to write with in the dirt.

When he returns to America, Greg realizes that he barely has enough money to maintain his low cost apartment. His quest to obtain funding is eventually somewhat successful in that he returns to Pakistan with just enough money to build one school if he bargains carefully and lives frugally and takes advantage of the villager's enthusiasm and skills in helping to build it. His

misadventures continue when he encounters shady dealers, is forced to give bribes, be constantly alert for thieves and then discovers he must build a footbridge to the village before he can build the school. While doing this, he also has to learn the Muslim religion and local customs and learn to speak at least some of the various native dialects

Greg makes many friends and useful contacts during this first project and this consortium goes on to become the Central Asian Institute, which proceeds to build dozens more schools, many of them for girls who were otherwise denied schooling in this part of the world. The task remains difficult, his life is threatened on numerous occasions, he is imprisoned briefly, and the whole situation becomes far more dangerous after 9/11, but his organization persists. It's an inspiring story of what one person can do if they are dedicated enough and are willing to forego a life that most of us call normal. More important, what Greg and the CAI are doing is the best kind of diplomacy in a part of the world where it is desperately needed. It's no exaggeration to say that the return on our money fighting terrorism would be hundreds of times higher if we helped educate these young Afghans and Pakistanis than the way we are currently conducting our fight against terrorism. Not to mention the lives that would be saved. ts

Driftwood cont. from the previous page

trips and are easy to work with. Bob and Helen still "love and spend much time in the back country, hiking the trails, camping out by a river or lake, throwing rocks to drive away bears who invade our campsite, sleeping on the ground and so on." More or less annual destinations include: Mineral King, Grand Canyon, Yosemite Valley and White Wolf camp grounds, and "almost every week when we're home for 2 or 3 days at our cabin on Mt Laguna, only 1.5 hours from home on the beach of Mission Bay."

He continues, "We have also discovered that we love to travel and enjoy the luxury of cruise ships; (Hawaii, Alaska, Mexico, Panama Canal, Caribbean and Baltic Sea, so far).

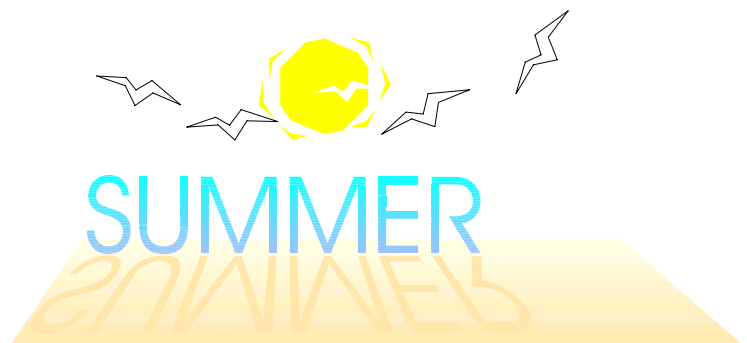
"I do welcome and enjoy the *Grapevine*. The trips I read about sound great. So keep traveling, you all, and Bon Voyage!"



Michele Nelson writes, "Thanks Bob for all your work on the *Grapevine*. I too read with delight in how so many of us are thriving and having such fun. Also to

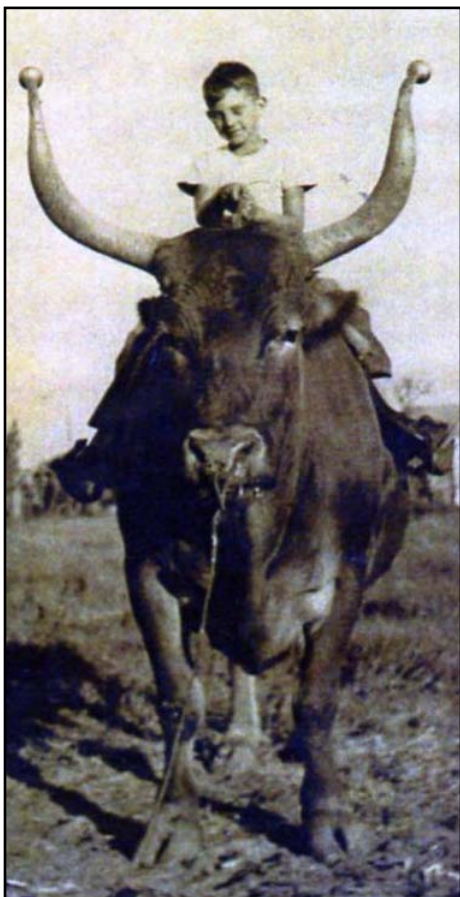
accept with sadness when we hear about the spousal losses like those of Chuck Park, Don Anderson and others.

"I am very glad you are transmitting electronically as we head into the latest fiscal wringer. It would be all too easy to cut costs with a hard copy mailer twice a year. So thanks again for your efforts and thanks too to GCCCD for their support. All the best."



Guess Who

by Mary Ann Beverly (answers are posted at the Grapevine homepage and in the next issue of Grapevine)



Guest #1

This happy young rider is on a Texas Longhorn, or, was it a Water Buffalo? Whatever, he appears brave and handsome. However, he did not grow up to be a cowboy, he was more of a "Nature Boy." He was one of our earliest professors, here at Grossmont College, who taught one of the Earth Sciences. He and his lovely wife, an authoress, are avid nature lovers. They probably wish they were birds because they travel widely, he doing research and she seeing and feeling the artistry of Mother Nature. Guess Who?



Guest #3

After the move from Monte Vista High School to our current campus here at Grossmont College, students were blessed with a refreshing new professor. He soon became known as the "person with the infectious smile." Because of his quiet and pleasant demeanor, one would not have seen, immediately, the brilliance of this man. He soon attracted the science minded scholar as well as students who enjoyed a good sense of humor. Aside from his knowledge and teaching ability, this professor, with a Doctorate Degree, enjoyed making fun of Chemistry teachers, by quoting the adage, "Old Chemist never die, they just stop reacting." Not this brilliant mind. Guess Who?



Guest #2

The home base of this popular couple is not too far from California.

However they grace us with their presence from time to time. They are an active couple with their hobbies, she with talent for tap-dancing and he with his communicative skills. This retiree keeps busy by encouraging and reaching out to people who show an interest in communicating with his fellow man. He inspires others to interpret ideas visually; to see and hear sounds; and physically put images together for others to enjoy or "gasp" at.

His forte was his ability to inspire his students to sharpen one's curiosity and to put ideas into words. He was admirably referred to on a first name basis. As chairperson for his department, he gained their respect for his knack to "pick their minds" and utilize their brainpower. Guess Who?

Answers to March '08 Guess Who:

Guest #1 Bob Steinbach

Guest #2 Shirl Collamer

Guest #3 Don Anderson

Sixteen Retirees Honored at the Luncheon



Cathy and Val Eskridge



Nancy Skoglund, Arlene Stone, Carol Ruiz

Roz and Gary Scott



More photos in the
Second Press section
of the *Grapevine*

Obituaries



Martha Ann Cox Lesh
GC Administrative Secretary
1984-1995

Mrs. Martha Ann Cox Lesh, 79, died Friday, April 11, 2008, in Cartersville, Georgia.

A memorial service was held Wednesday, April 16, 2008, at 11 a.m., at the chapel of Winkenhofer Pine Ridge Funeral Home, Kennesaw, with Rev. Matt Sims officiating. Mrs. Lesh was a member of the Episcopal church in Cartersville.

Surviving are her daughters,

Marilyn Merritt of Acworth and Marlene Rusk of Napa, Calif.; brother, John Cox of Tucson, Ariz.; and five grandchildren.

Ann, as most of her colleagues called her, first worked as an assistant to Kathy Braun in GC's Business Office. She then became a secretary in the Athletics Department and later, in 1987, secretary to Director of Student Affairs. Bob Haywood, who was Director at that time, said "she was the consummate secretary, very professional. She worked for the campus and participated fully in graduation and awards ceremonies. She was a marvelous secretary and very devoted to our students." She retired

shortly after Bob Haywood retired in 1995.

Beverly Burkhardt was a close friend and mentor of Ann's before she retired. Ann Lesh became secretary in the Athletics Department right after Beverly vacated the job to work for Student Affairs, so Beverly helped her make the transition to that position. When Beverly left her position with Student Affairs, Ann followed in her footsteps once again.

Ann was very devoted to her family and friends as well as to Grossmont College and its students, and she will be missed by all of them. ts



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Rob Nolan, Ernest Ewin, Steve Devan, Dr. Sunita Cooke



Nancy Skoglund, Joe Marron



Drew Massicot provided musical entertainment



Joe Marron, Dr. Geraldine Perri, Marsha Fralick



Janet Castaños, Ben Newkirk

Second Press - Page 2



Dr. Omero Suarez, Arlene Stone, Dr. John Colson



Dr. Omero Suarez, Val Eskridge



Dr. Omero Suarez, Hsiu Chih Jennings, John al-Amin



Dr. Omero Suarez, Marsha Fralick, Joé Marron



Dr. Omero Suarez, Carol Ruiz, Dr. John Colson



Roz Scott and Dr. Omero Suarez



Dr. Roger Owens and Linda Macosky

See page 4, "Driftwood," for more information on the Chuckanut Radio Hour.

The Stars Come Out for
The Chuckanut RADIO HOUR

The Chuckanut Radio Hour has had a great string of programs that have been well-loved by the performers, authors and audiences. Each month we have recorded one show before a live audience. With programs booked through October, it looks like we're in for a great season of entertainment, in person and on-the-air and it doesn't appear that string is about to end.

In addition to the author guest, each show includes musical guests, the Poet's Corner, a humorous (and often poignant) essay by our resident philosopher, Alan Rhodes, and an episode of our own serial comedy, *The Bellingham Bean*. We ask that everyone be seated by 6:45pm for the 7pm recording.

ELIZABETH GEORGE
 June 18th

Beloved mystery author, Elizabeth George, with her new book, *Careless in Red*, will be our CRH author guest for the program we'll record on Wednesday, June 18, in the studios of KMRE at the American Museum of Radio and Electricity. Tickets are \$7.50. One ticket is included free with each pre-purchase of her new book.

DAVID GUTERSON
 July 16th

David Guterson, author of the award-winning and best-selling novel, *Snow Falling on Cedars*, will join us at the Crystal Ballroom at the Leopold on Wednesday, July 16. Tickets are \$7.50. One ticket is included free with the purchase of his new book, *The Other*. (see page 8 for a review!)

SHERMAN ALEXIE
 August 16th

Our guest for the August show is Sherman Alexie. This show will be recorded on the Fairhaven Village Green on Saturday, August 16, before the showing of Sherman's film, *The Business of Fancydancing*. Admission to this show is by the ticket for the Fairhaven Outdoor Cinema.

GARRISON KEILLOR
 September 16th

September brings a very special guest to The Chuckanut Radio Hour. In fact, Garrison Keillor was the inspiration for our show. On Tuesday, September 16, the Chuckanut Radio Hour will be recorded on the Mainstage of the Performing Arts Center at Western Washington University. This is a special fundraiser for the new Pickford Film Centre. Tickets, which include a copy of Garrison Keillor's new book, *Liberty*, are \$42 and will be available at Village Books and the PAC Box Office in July.

IVAN DOIG
 October 24th

And, just a heads-up, in October we'll welcome our longtime friend and best-selling author, Ivan Doig, with his deeply powerful American story, *The Eleventh Man*. Look for more information about that show in our September Chuckanut Reader.

KMRE
FM 102.3

The Chuckanut Radio Hour is heard every Saturday at 6pm & every Sunday evening at 9pm on KMRE, FM 102.3. Shows may now also be heard in national internet syndication on QRadio.net on Thursday evenings at 8pm!