



The PACRA Pacer

Where Are They Now?

DAVID CHASE, Leucadia, CA (Professor, Music Department)



David Chase, Conductor, The La Jolla Symphony Chorus

My life hasn't changed **all that** much—just, as my father would say, 'reduced to a dull roar.' I still teach one class per semester at Palomar, so I get my 'student fix.' The La Jolla Symphony Chorus, which I've **conducted since the** year *before* I started at Palomar College, has expanded to fill more of my days. I'm very lucky because the quality of every aspect of the organization—performers, repertoire, administration and board—is at an all-time high now, just when I **have** more time and energy.

The **Chorus** is going to New York over Memorial Day weekend to perform in Carnegie Hall! So, before I get too old, I'll be conducting my chorus (115 singers), the North Coast Singers children's chorus (40 kids), three soloists and a large professional orchestra on stage at Carnegie Hall. Should be thrilling.

Wife Ann continues her singing, as well. She's been doing fascinating programs of less classical music—Sondheim, Kurt Weill, Tin Pan Alley songs—with script and projections that make sense of the music.

And both the kids now live in New York. Darren teaches English and ESL in a public school that's walking distance from his apartment in the East Village. He's also still singing and has a new album of Schumann songs.

Claire is the star of the family; she has a **REAL** career. She travels constantly, doing solo recitals on the flute and performing with ICE (International Contemporary Ensemble).

But you can find me at <http://www.lajollasympphony.com/>. And I hope some of you members of PACRA will surf there and maybe buy tickets to the next concert (May 9/10), in which I'll be **conducting the** music that we're taking to New York. It's always a delight to see my old friends from Palomar show up in La Jolla. My best to all my friends in PACRA. ♦

We feel guilty for all that we have not yet read, but overlook how much better read we already are than Augustine or Dante.

Alain de Botton

VIRGINIA DOWER, San Marcos, CA
(Bookstore Manager, Auxiliary Services Department)

After 15 years of retirement, I am still living in the same house we built in 1975 in San Marcos. It is located at the top of the hill, although the San Elijo development has taken over all the meadows below me. To the west I can still see the San Elijo Lagoon, the ocean and San Clemente Island, and I have mountains on the north, south, and east. I do not travel because I live in Paradise and everyone comes to see me.

I spend time each week working on reports for my business Vista Bail Bonds and A&A Bail Bonds which my husband started in the late '50s. Each year I volunteer to work with the Palomar College Development Foundation's (PCDF) Gala Committee to help raise funds for Palomar College. I also belong to the President's Associates, a fund raising organization under the auspices of the PCDF.



Virginia & sons

Editor's Note: In November of 2011 at the Foundation's Annual Black Tie Gala, Virginia was selected as a Comet Award Winner in recognition of her commitment, leadership and outstanding work in her community and on behalf of Palomar College. ◆

PACRA Annual Meeting

Palomar College Retirees' Association
Twenty-First Annual Meeting:

Thursday, May 17, 2012, 11:30 - 2:30

Place: The Old Spaghetti Factory,
111 N. Twin Oaks Valley Road
San Marcos, CA 92069

Cost: \$16 per person

Lunch will be served at noon.

**Program Speakers: Governing Board
President Darrell McMullen; Robert
Deegan, Superintendent/President.**

Reservations and payment must be received in advance. A reservation form has been mailed to PACRA members; deadline for returning your reservation is May 14th. Please plan to join us!

PACRA Pacer, Spring 2012 Edition

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LORNA TEFFT, Vista, CA (Secretary, Chemistry Department)

After retiring from Palomar College I decided to do volunteer services in my local community. The following services were rendered with much pride and love to those I served.

(1) Served as an ombudsman for the County of San Diego Health & Human Services Department. In this capacity I was an advocate for the rights of our senior citizens.

(2) Served as a volunteer for Tri-City Hospital's Hospice. My duties included visiting patients in nursing homes and in private residences. This was a very rewarding experience; I went home every day feeling good because I had made a difference in my patients' lives.

(3) Hosted many foreign students from Japan and several from Brazil. The students from Japan spoke very little English. I, being from Hawaii, spoke fluent Japanese, and this made my students feel very much at home. This experience, which went on for over a year, gave me a wonderful opportunity to learn about different cultures, and it truly enriched my life.

(4) Volunteered with the S. Diego County Sheriff's Department for a short time, but I finally decided it was my time to truly retire and enjoy my senior living.

At 85 years of life I have truly enjoyed life to its fullest.

Aloha

 ◆

Palomar College NEWS BRIEFS

1 Industrial Technology Center

On Friday, March 2, 2012, Palomar College celebrated the grand opening of its new Industrial Technology Center with faculty, staff and administration conducting tours of the Automotive Technology, Diesel Technology and Auto Body facilities that are housed in the newly completed IT Center. The building was funded through Proposition M, a \$694 million bond approved by voters in November 2006.

2 Planetarium

The grand opening of the new Planetarium occurred on March 9, 2012. The first public Planetarium shows will begin on Friday, April 20, 2012. From that date forward the Planetarium will be open to the public every Friday evening. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and tickets are sold on a first come, first serve basis. General admission cost is \$5; students, seniors (55 & older) and military \$3. The Planetarium was also funded through Proposition M bond monies approved by voters in November 2006.

3 Palomar College Appoints VP

In late December of 2011, the Governing Board appointed Mark Vernoy as Vice President of Student Services. Vernoy, who has filled the position on an interim basis since 2009, supervises athletics, counseling, enrollment, health services, the college Police Department and student affairs. He has worked at Palomar College since 1976 as a psychology professor, department chair and dean, and previously served as president of the faculty senate.

4 Palomar Changes Registration Priorities

Palomar College students who have completed more than 90 class units are getting a lower registration priority for the 2012 spring semester as the college tries to reserve class seats for those pursuing transfer and associate degrees. It typically takes about 60 units to complete an associate degree, or to finish the classes needed to transfer to a four-year university, so students should be able to reach those goals without going over 90 units. The decision to reduce the registration priority reflects a direction from Sacramento officials to manage budget cuts to community colleges by helping students get through the system. The Legislature has made it clear that they want community colleges to focus on basic skills, transfer readiness and workforce development.

5 College Gets Good Audit Report

Palomar College received an "A" on its 2010 - 2011 audit report according to Renee Graves, a certified public accountant and partner with the accounting firm Vicenti Lloyd and Stutzman. The opinion concerned the general audit, as well as the Proposition M performance and financial audits. The audit document stated that the community college district has exercised good fiscal and cash management, and had strengthened its financial position despite funding cuts and the overall state budget crisis. The independent auditing firm spent approximately 755 hours and three weeks on-site scrutinizing the district's financial records. The audit is a state-mandated requirement and occurs annually.

PACRA News Briefs

Public Retiree Benefit Backed

High Court rules that implied contracts providing continued healthcare are valid

Health benefits for government retirees may not be eliminated if state and local governments had clearly promised workers those benefits, the California Supreme Court ruled in late November 2011. This unanimous decision says that when you are in the process of doing public employee pension reform, you have to respect the rights of *current*

retirees (emphasis added). The court's ruling is expected to make it more difficult for state and local governments to shave costs by cutting health benefits to retirees if elected officials in previous years made it clear that those benefits would last a lifetime. "If you promised them a particular benefit when they were working and promised that would be part of their retirement, then that is a promise you have to keep," said Ernest Galvan, a lawyer who represented more than 5,000 Orange County retirees and their family members. ♦

SUSAN GRIFFIN,
Vancouver, WA
(Professor, Nursing
Education Department)



With my dog Mandy

I began working at Palomar College in 1979 and retired from the Nursing Education Department in 1999. I moved to Vancouver, WA with my Mom. (She lived with me at my home in Lake San Marcos.)

Vancouver is located across the Columbian River from Portland, OR. I am involved with activities of my four great-nephews and one great-niece.

My Mom and I did tutoring two times a week in reading and writing at a local school. She passed in 2008 at the age of 98. I continue to do tutoring and really enjoy the 1st and 2nd graders. I am also working on the family genealogy and

enjoy taking 'mature learning classes' at the local community college.

In 2010 I started to undertake a healthy lifestyle and have returned to the weight I was in my college days. I do a plant-based eating plan and I go to a health club/pool six days a week. I had a left hip replacement in 2004; a right hip replacement in June 2011 and a right knee replacement in October 2011. I live in a 55 plus golf community and have become an unpaid consultant to the community on changing to a healthy lifestyle and how to prepare for and 'survive' joint replacements.

My Bucket List: I am planning a road trip to the East Coast in October and want to go on an educational tour to Costa Rica.

My regards to all the retirees of Palomar College. ◆

Palomar College Retirees' Association

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