



The PACRA *Pacer*

Where Are They Now?

JOE STANFORD, Fallbrook, CA (Professor, Music Department)



*Joe Stanford,
Conductor*



California Center for the Arts, Escondido

Joe Stanford retired from Palomar College and wanted to do more music. The California Center for the Arts Escondido (CCAIE) had the building and Joe created the enthusiasm for a Choral Music program.

"Revitalizing the Center Chorale presents itself as a wonderful opportunity for vocal musicians in San Diego County to form a musical ensemble of which we will be proud, which will draw audiences to our beautiful facilities and which will provide leadership in the community in making beautiful music for singers," Stanford said.

"Our idea is to build a comprehensive vocal program at the CCAIE that includes children's choirs that will teach young singers to read music, sing well, and that will develop those important skills needed for singing together in an ensemble. More news about the Children's program will be forthcoming."

The Choir has started rehearsing Fauré's Requiem and just finished MESSIAH by Handel, which was performed in January and drew a respectable audience.

Stanford hopes to continue with a program to provide music for the Community. In Stanford's original proposal submitted to the CCAIE, he assured the Board that conducting the Chorale is something that he really wanted to see happen and that he would work hard to bring quality music in song to our community. "I believe I can build an organization that will be ongoing and a valuable asset to the CCAIE and all of North County."

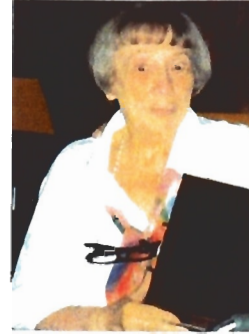
In addition to Joe's musical commitment, he has opened his home workshop to make children's toys for Christmas. In previous years these toys were given to an inter-faith council for distribution to needy families. This past year the toys went to the Salvation Army. ◆

PACRA Board honors 3 retiring Board Members

The PACRA Board of Directors paid tribute to three retiring Board members at a luncheon held at the Spaghetti Factory in San Marcos on Thursday, October 18, 2012. **Dr. Omar Scheidt, Jean Houston** and **James Clayton** are all retiring from the Board. Both Omar Scheidt and Jean Houston are charter members of PACRA and have served on the Board since 1991. All three received an engraved plaque as a token of appreciation for their long and distinguished service. Their commitment and dedication to the mission of PACRA has been extraordinary and is very much appreciated. We wish each of



*Dr. Ken Burns,
President of PACRA,
presenting Dr. Omar
Scheidt his plaque*



Jean Houston



James Clayton

them well as they now truly enter the wonderful world of retirement. ♦

Save the Date:

Palomar College Retirees' Association
Twenty-Second Annual Meeting &
Luncheon:

Thursday, May 16th 2013

Please plan to join us!



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June Rady, Ted Kilman

Communications Committee

Karin Norlin

Layout & Design

junerady@cox.net

tkilman@cox.net

PACRA Board honoring its 3 retiring members, October 18, 2012



Palomar College NEWS BRIEFS

1 Special Planetarium Presentation Held for PACRA Members

The PACRA Board of Directors was successful in arranging for a special Planetarium presentation for its members and their spouses/guests. This special event was held on Saturday, October 27, 2012 and featured dual programs of *The Sky Tonight* and a full dome presentation entitled *Secret Lives of Stars*. **Mark Lane**, the Planetarium director, conducted the show. Approximately 40 PACRA members and their guests were in attendance. Special thanks to **Bob Larson** for setting up this event. The new planetarium is a beautiful facility, and the show was very entertaining.

2 Palomar College TV Producer Receives Emmy Nomination

In May of 2012, Palomar College received two Pacific Southwest Emmy nominations for the documentary 'Nature's Cathedral: The Geology of Yosemite,' produced by the College's Educational Television Department.

Producer **Bill Wisneski** was nominated for photography along with production coordinator **Mona Witherington**. Editor **Jonathan Keena** was nominated for animated/graphic design. They collaborated on the documentary with Palomar College Earth Sciences professor **Patty Deen**, who said the production is a valuable classroom tool for her 'Geology of National Parks' course. "This tremendous honor is a result of all the talented staff, students and faculty who worked tirelessly on this project," Wisneski said.



Palomar College Television Producer Bill Wisneski prepares to shoot footage for the Emmy-nominated documentary

"Nature's Cathedral: The Geology of Yosemite."

3 Palomar Hires New Finance Chief

San Diego Mesa College Vice President **Ron Perez** took over as finance chief for Palomar College on June 18, 2012. Perez will oversee the college's \$100 million budget and more than two-thirds of a billion dollars in construction projects. He replaces **Joe Newmyer**, who held the post on an interim basis.



Ron Perez

Perez has worked as vice president of administrative services for San Diego Mesa College for seven years. He spent more than 20 years in other administration and accounting positions for agencies including the San Diego County Office of Education and worked as director of finance and business services at Highline Community College in Seattle. His job at Palomar will include managing the college's budget, overseeing fiscal and information services, and administering the suite of building projects under Proposition M, the \$694 million bond measure that voters approved in 2006 to modernize the campus.

Perez holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Wayland Baptist University and a Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership from Chapman University.

4 Palomar College Project Takes Home Gold



COSTEA PHOTOGRAPHY

Palomar College's Multi-Disciplinary Building recently received a Gold Nugget award for architecture and design at a conference held in June 2012 in San Francisco. The award was announced at a PCBC annual conference and exposition, formerly called the Pacific Coast Builders Conference, that brings together commercial and residential developers, primarily from Western States. The Gold Nugget program is considered the oldest and one of the most prestigious design competitions in the building industry. Ideas that appear in commercial and residential projects often signal trends that are emulated elsewhere.

November 2012 Governing Board Election Results

The General Election held on November 6, 2012, saw six candidates, including incumbents Nancy Chadwick, Darrell McMullen and Rose Marie Dishman, vying for three open seats, along with challengers John Halcón, Nancy Ann Hensch and Roberto Rodriguez. Winning the open seats were incumbent Nancy Chadwick and newcomers Nancy Ann Hensch and John J. Halcón. The newly elected trustees officially assumed their duties in December 2012.

Congratulations to those elected, and special thanks to outgoing Board members Darrell McMullen and Rose Marie Dishman for their public service and dedication to Palomar College.



Nancy C. Chadwick
Board President



Paul P. McNamara
Vice President



Mark Evilsizer
Secretary of the Board



John J. Halcón, Ph.D.
Trustee



Nancy Ann Hensch
Trustee



Johnathan Farmer
Student Trustee

The Palomar Community College District

is governed by a five-member Governing Board elected to four-year terms by voters in the District, which serves 2,500 square miles of northern San Diego County. A student Executive Officer of the Associated Student Government also serves as student trustee for a one-year term.

The public may contact members of the Governing Board in writing c/o Palomar College, 1140 West Mission Road, San Marcos, CA 92069, or by calling the District Office at (760) 744-1150 x 2104.

We cannot enjoy life if we spend our time and energy worrying about what happened yesterday and what will happen tomorrow. If we're afraid all the time, we miss out on the wonderful fact that we are alive and can be happy right now.

from Free from Fear, Tich Nhat Hanh

What the Florida Pension Ruling Means for Other States

January 17, 2013... The Florida Supreme Court this week ruled that public employees' pension contracts can be adjusted, weighing in on an issue that many believe will make its way up to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The state's high court on Thursday upheld in a 4 - 3 split decision a 2011 state law requiring public employees to contribute 3 percent of their salaries to the state's pension fund. The 140,000 - member Florida Education Association had sued the state, arguing that the required contribution amounted to a pay cut and was subject to negotiation, according to their collective bargaining agreement. But in the 4 - 3 decision, the court ruled that such a restriction on the state's pension structure, that could never be amended or repealed irrespective of the fiscal condition of this state, could lead to fiscal irresponsibility.

The decision hits on a point whether pensions can be adjusted outside of the bargaining process

that is being tested now in other cases in the country. In Rhode Island, the unions are challenging pension reform passed in 2011 that, among other things, changed the contribution structure and increased the retirement age for current employees. Two bankruptcy cases in California (the cities of Stockton and San Bernardino) are testing whether pension agreements for retired workers can be adjusted.

But in Florida, the Florida Education Association (FEA) said the pension plan change amounts to an extra tax on public employees because the state has been using money from its pension fund to balance the budget. Balancing the state budget on the back of middle-class working families is the wrong approach for legislative leaders and the governor to take, the FEA president said in a statement. "We're disappointed that the state's highest court said this approach was legal." ♦

California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013

As you may know, prior to the legislative session that ended August 31, 2012, the Legislature voted on and passed pension reform legislation. The bill carrying the changes, AB 340 (Furitani, D-Long Beach), was signed by the Governor and became effective January 1, 2013.

The impact of this complex, detailed package is significant; however, there were some wins. **There were no changes to retiree healthcare, and those who receive the 100/90 formula will not see that change as a result of this legislation.**

Most of these changes already apply to state employees as a result of past negotiations between state employee groups and Governors Brown and Schwarzenegger. Furthermore, these

changes are statutory, not constitutional, and they are subject to amendment in the future. This is important because the language was drafted and passed with great urgency. This will afford the Legislature the opportunity to correct drafting errors and fix inequities.

Many of the changes made were timely and necessary. In particular, the anti-spiking provisions and eliminating the loopholes in existing law which allowed the cities of Bell and Vernon to abuse the system were included in AB 340.

The biggest cost impact will be on new hires in the form of lower benefits. It will create a new tier of public employees who must work longer to receive a lesser benefit at a later age. For current

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Palomar College Retirees' Association

1140 W. Mission Rd, San Marcos, CA 92069-1487



The **PACRA Pacer**

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employees the biggest impact will be at the local level, primarily among public safety employees who will pay substantially more in contributions towards their retirement.

Here are some highlights of the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA), as it is now called:

- The maximum benefit at retirement for new hires in the 'Miscellaneous' retirement category (non-safety) would be increased from age 63 to age 67. For new public safety hires (police and fire), the maximum benefit at retirement would be age 57 (currently age 50 or age 55 in most cases).
- Miscellaneous formula for new hires is 2% @ 62 and tops out at 2.5% @ 67. Police and Fire formula is 2% @ 50, topping out at 2.7% @ 57.
- Current rules for state employees restrict public work after retirement to 960 hours annually. This would be applicable statewide to all public employees.
- Pensionable salary would be capped at \$110,100 for those in Social Security, \$132,120 for those not in Social Security.
- The retirement calculation would be based on the final three years of compensation, not the single highest year.
- Ends pension accumulation after conviction of a felony.
- Prohibits retroactive pension benefit increases.
- Eliminates pension contribution holidays for employers.
- Eliminates purchase of service credit for air time. ♦