

TRIBUTES TO OUR COLLEAGUES

PHIL BAUM

Dear Colleagues,

It is with heartfelt sympathy that I inform you of the passing of Palomar College retiree, Phil Baum. Diane Baum, Mr. Baum's spouse, informed us that he passed away at 83 years old on August 12. Further, Mrs. Baum wanted you to know how much Phil loved working at Palomar College and his work in the TRIO program was his passion. Mrs. Baum stated that Phil had grown up in poverty and he was the first to attend college in his family; because of this he felt he had a strong connection to TRIO students. Phil was recognized as a champion of students and often stated that he helped "even the score" for these young people who were not given the same advantages as their peers. Mrs. Baum said Phil was "a man who loved life in all its forms.

Phil Baum worked at Palomar College for nearly 20 years and was known to take advantage of extra-curricular opportunities at the San Marcos campus. These included frequent laps in the swimming pool and running the track. He was also a dance student. Our Chair of Performing Arts, Patriceann Mead, remembers Phil as "an active member of the first years of the Afro-Cuban/Brazilian Drum and Dance Ensemble program at Palomar College. He was a lovely, humble, and kind human being and very supportive of our classes and events. Phil loved to drum and also challenged himself by taking the dance class as well. He was a joy to work with!"

Nick Mata | Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Student Services

FRANK HANKIN

Dear Colleagues,

It is with heartfelt sadness that I inform you of the passing of John "Frank" Hankin. Mr. Hankin served Palomar College for 21 years in student services as a financial aid officer, acting assistant dean of student personnel, financial aid director, director of student activities, and EOPS counselor. He retired in 1994 and returned for 5 years as a soccer instructor and coach, a substance abuse prevention advisor and adjunct EOPS counselor.

Below you will find an obituary provided to us by his wife of 45 years, Jane Hankin. Mrs. Hankin has extended an invitation to Palomar employees and retirees to the service on Friday, October 13, and/or to contribute to a Palomar College scholarship fund in Mr. Hankin's name.

Our sympathy is with Mr. Hankin's family and friends at this time:

John "Frank" Hankin, passed away September 9, 2023, at the age of 84, after a long illness. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Jane; his sister, Laura; his adult children, Hope, Leslie, Casey, and Frank; twelve grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, and dozens of nieces and nephews and cousins. He is preceded in death by his parents John and Esperanza and four siblings, Laurita, Lillian, Joan, and Dale.

Frank was born in Arizona and moved with his family between Mexico and Arizona during his childhood. He was an award-winning high school gymnast and wrestler in Yuma, Arizona, and went on to compete in both for the University of Utah, where he graduated in 1962.

In 1964, he was an alternate on the US Olympic Greco and Freestyle Wrestling Team. He spent his early years in education first teaching at a Ute Indian Reservation in Utah, then moved to Northern California in 1965 to coach wrestling and teach at Gonzales High School and later at Hartnell College in Salinas, CA. He volunteered as an advisor for Soledad Prison, and he started an educational program for children of farm labor camps in Salinas Valley and Monterey County that was documented in the film "The Migrant Education Story".

In 1972 he moved his family to San Diego County and began at Palomar College as a counselor and educator, served as Director of Financial Aid, and later Dean of Student Affairs. He remained at Palomar for the remainder of his career where he was twice faculty president, served as a faculty advisor for various campus organizations and he founded The Connection for students in recovery, and was twice the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference President.

After he retired from Palomar at age 55, he returned as an instructor and soccer coach and was also involved in wrestling programs at multiple local high schools.

In 2022, he was inducted into The National Wrestling Hall of Fame California Chapter for Lifetime Service in Wrestling.

However, his most memorable coaching moments for his family are the years he spent coaching his children and later his grandchildren in both soccer and wrestling.

A service will be held Friday, October 13, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at

St. Patrick Catholic Church

3821 Adams Street

Carlsbad, CA 92008

Please arrive 15-30 minutes early. No reception will follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of John (Frank) Hankin to the Palomar College Foundation for a scholarship to be established in his honor. Contributions may be made online at www.palomar.edu/foundation or by mailing a check to the Palomar College Foundation, 1140 W. Mission Road, San Marcos, CA 92069. Please note your donation is in memory of Frank Hankin.

Best Regards,

Julie Lanthier Bandy | Director, Marketing, Communications and Public Affairs

Nick Mata | Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Student Services

Dear Colleagues,

It is with deep sympathy that I inform you of the passing of Professor Joe Limer on Saturday, September 2. Professor Limer began his career at Palomar College in August 2000 as an adjunct faculty member. In August 2013, he became a full-time Assistant Professor in our political science program and later also taught classes in the business administration department. He received tenure in 2017. Professor Limer, a winner of the Distinguished Faculty Award, was extremely dedicated to the success of his students. He was well known for his ability to engage students with his sense of humor and extensive knowledge, and make his classes dynamic learning environments. Professor Limer shared his passion for equity and access and served as an active member of Palomar College Asian Pacific Alliance in Higher Education (APAHE). Professor Limer will be greatly missed by his Palomar College family:

Joe Limer was a true Renaissance man. He gave up on a possibly lucrative law career to teach and spent a decade as an adjunct and working odd jobs before being hired full time. He always placed his passion for students and teaching first: He received the Distinguished Faculty Award as an adjunct and became one of our most brilliant stars of the department. I know multiple students who chose to go into the law or politics because of his mentorship. Somehow in between all of that he also became a nationally recognized and award-winning spoken word poet, creative writing mentor, social justice advocate, active member of APAHE (the Asian Pacific Alliance in Higher Education), served on the PFF executive board, wrote on the commerce clause as part of a National Endowment for the Humanities, and was a huge nerd from sports (where he had been a sportswriter for a West Virginia newspaper) to superhero fiction and Bruce Lee films. But beyond all his accomplishments, he was a shining light of a colleague and friend. There is a devastating silence where his voice once was. – Bill Jahnel

There are so many things I can say about Joe. He was truly one of the finest people I knew. He always had time for me when I wandered into his office. He was funny, kind, and an amazing teacher. Once I asked if I could observe his teaching, not to evaluate, but to witness the magic I had heard so much about. When I went into his class, I was amazed at how engaged the students were. Joe did not use notes, the board, or a PowerPoint presentation, yet his students were clearly listening with rapt attention and taking copious notes. He was easy going and funny and brought out each of his students. At one point in his lecture, Joe paused and began to slowly define an important term. He repeated the definition once, and then twice. The students realized they needed to note the definition. He repeated it one more time, so they got it word for word. I was so impressed with this way of conveying information that I stole the technique to use in my own classroom. Joe will be so missed by all. Our department will never be the same without him.

Teresa Laughlin

*You are God's poetry
A trailblazer in the sky, a brave light paving new roads in the darkness*

*No one realizes comets are symbols of ourselves
the universe is ours,
your reflections leave us stardust
Now ancestor dancing on the fingertips of raised hands. Angelica Yanez*

Professor Limer was a true blessing in our lives. His caring nature and profound wisdom inspired students and colleagues alike and touched countless hearts. His remarkable ability to convey truths left a lasting impact on all who knew him. Professor Limer's legacy of wisdom and inspiration will continue to illuminate the paths of those fortunate enough to have known him. I will never forget you, Joe. -Jennifer Herrera

What I will always treasure about Joe was that his ferocious intellect was tied to a spirit of infectious laughter. I could always go down the hall and ask him questions about the historical use of law or legal precedent and our discussion would invariably devolve into a joint rant about whatever modern inequity or injustice had caught our attention at that moment. Despite the seriousness of the topics, we would always end with laughter. I will miss those talks, his insights, and the laughter. Matt Estes

He will surely be missed by all.

Star Rivera Lacey, Ph.D. | Superintendent/President | Palomar Community College District

DONNA MCNEEL

My Grandmother was without a doubt the strongest woman I've ever known with the kindest and most beautiful spirit. She was very soft spoken yet didn't take any BS. She endured way too much in her lifetime yet she ALWAYS carried herself with dignity, class and poise. She was strong, and she expected no less from me.

My Grandmother was the one who was always there for me when no one else was; she was my constant person, go to, and as I grew up, she saved me from myself...countless of times. For that I will forever be grateful.

I'm posting this because I want everyone to know what an amazing woman she was and how lucky I was to have her!!!

I will miss you with every breath I take, Grandma, and I will continue to keep making you proud.

In truth, I know I should be grateful for all of the years that we did have together but the thought of you not being there anymore and not ever hearing your voice again is absolutely breaking my heart.

Rest peacefully my sweet Grandmother. Until I see you again.

This is very sad news. Of all the times I interacted with Donna at Palomar, she was always so sweet, helpful, positive and a joy to deal with. We shared such good conversations throughout those years. She was the epitome of loveliness! *Nicole Moreau*

She really took good care of me at Palomar and I was so happy to have seen her at Redwood the day before I left on vacation—almost thought I didn't have time to stop. She even let me help her eat—though she didn't have much appetite. I felt she was more "up" than a previous visit—and that may be one way our body prepares for the next journey. Who knows! It's a journey we all get to take—and while we're still on this side, let's appreciate our "now" as well as each other. Thanks to each of you for touching my life.

Cynthia Poole

BRIAN “MIKE” MICHAELSON *October. 7, 2022*

Mike passed on Oct. 7, 2022 and is survived by his wife Marge, his two sons Jeff and Dave, his daughter-in-law Julie, and his granddaughter Devin.

May Mike’s memory always be for a blessing.

Brian “Mike” Michaelson was born in Ohio and received his Bachelor of Business Administration from Ohio University in 1966. While at Ohio University, Mike worked as a research analyst on a Ford grant for two years to analyze population census figures. He had visited the west coast on several occasions in the two years previous to his graduation and elected to complete his education at CSU, Long Beach, where he received his MBA in 1969.

Mike was hired at Palomar College in 1969 and worked in the Business Administration Department. Within a few years he founded the Computer Information Systems Department, where he taught for more than 35 years. He worked with the first Univac computer at Palomar College and was able to trace his roots to coding in Cobol. Mike was a leader in teaching emerging computer technology and, as chair of the Computer Information Systems Department and the Computer Science and Information System Department, was responsible for great innovation and strong growth in the programs.

Mike enjoyed sailing on Mission Bay and San Diego Bay and was an aficionado of antique cars. He had a very strong Jewish identity and sense of belonging to an important community. He felt the weight of Jewish history and heritage and fostered the same feeling in his family. He was a founder of Beth Am synagogue in Del Mar and remained an active member throughout the years.

Mike led a life infused with kindness—in his lifelong relationships—and in his daily interactions. He was truly a mensch who was kind, thoughtful, and honorable and who always acted with integrity. He had a heart of gold who loved his friends and truly loved his family.

KATHY PINE *(no information available at this time)*