

# DIABLO VALLEY COLLEGE RETIREE NEWSLETTER

April 17, 2014

## INTERIM PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# HELP! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Welcome everyone to the new DVC Retirees' newsletter. This newsletter is to take the place of the three-times a year letter we have mailed in the past. The only mailed newsletters will be to members who have not given us email addresses. If for any reason this cannot work for you, please let us know as we are creating this newsletter method to give us all more contact and information about our fellow retirees.

This new newsletter is a creation of Barbara Sawyer and Bruce Reeve. With all the creative ability of Barbara and her years of advising students on *The Inquirer*, we hope this newsletter will be a smash hit.

*“...we need lots more people to come forward to address the ideas that we gathered from the last survey...”*

And NOW is the time for someone to step forward and command this organization. Bruce has a lot of ideas about the

archives, so we need lots more people to come forward to address the ideas that we gathered from the last survey to work.

Chuck Cottril has volunteered to teach a group of us (eight to ten) the intricacies of woodworking at his studio in Walnut Creek. We can meet and enjoy watching how one can carve the wood and make those fantastic bowls. Afterwards we can have lunch together in a restaurant of our choice in lovely Walnut Creek before heading home. I think it is a fantastic idea, and I look forward to the experience. He would be available on Wednesdays or Thursdays after June 22. I or a volunteer from our upcoming committees will have signup sheets at our next May potluck and we will accept those interested by email. We will set some dates and will make reservations at the restaurants. This and the newsletter make our upcoming year energized.

Well I have to close now. Barbara told me not to write a book, but those who really know me know I can't shut up. Hoping we will see many of you at the May Potluck to welcome some of our new retirees.

*Jeanne Hymer*

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**DVCRA**

**SPRING POTLUCK**

**THURSDAY  
MAY 22, 2014**

**MARTINEZ YACHT  
CLUB**

**Social Hour at 5 pm  
Dinner at 6 pm**

RSVP: Linda Robbins at  
[rlrobbins@hotmail.com](mailto:rlrobbins@hotmail.com) or  
Jeanne Hymer at  
[sjhymer@yahoo.com](mailto:sjhymer@yahoo.com)

Bring a salad or side dish if your  
last name starts with M-Z  
Bring an entrée if your last  
name starts with A-L

*Raffle contributions gratefully  
accepted*

**Editors note:****Re: Letter  
FROM the  
editor**

Greetings fellow retirees.

I would like to say hello to those of you whom I know and introduce myself to those whom I do not know. Although I do not know all of you, I am sure that we all share many fond memories from our years at DVC.

After teaching English and Journalism for 20 years in high school, I joined the DVC faculty as a part-timer in September 1985 and as a full-timer in 1986 when I was 50 years old. Bruce Reeves and I were hired at the same time and at roughly the same age. For many years we were reminded that our hiring marked the first time the English department had ever increased the average age of the faculty with their new hires! I am sure that it was the last time, as well.

I taught journalism and advised the college newspaper, *The Inquirer*, for 10 years, a job which I dearly loved, but then I became president of the Faculty Senate and feared that I might end up with a conflict of interest, so I resigned that position and became a full-time English instructor.

I retired in 2003 when my husband became the director of the University of California Overseas Study Program based

in London. After a wonderful two years in London, we came back to the US in 2005, and I was truly bored, so I went back to part-time teaching and for the first time in my career had the time to TEACH English the way it should be taught! I loved assigning an essay a week – I am not so sure that the students shared my enthusiasm!

I was really delighted to be asked to edit the DVCRA newsletter and am looking forward to beginning the job. I have collected some retirees' newsletters and found some good ideas for some stories.

Most of them offer letters **TO** the editors, and I hope some of you will be interested in participation. One contains stories of retirees' experiences after teaching: travel, volunteer work, new jobs, and articles on retirement. Let us hear your story.

We would like to do some articles on benefits and build a relationship with the United Faculty as we are affected.

Please send me any ideas on items you would like to see in the newsletter. The best way to reach me is through email: [barbarasawyer@gmail.com](mailto:barbarasawyer@gmail.com) or by telephone (510-388-7161). My mailing address is 1515 P Street, Unit 24, Sacramento, CA 95814. We are in the process of moving to Sacramento, so that is usually the best way to reach me.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

**Barbara Sawyer**

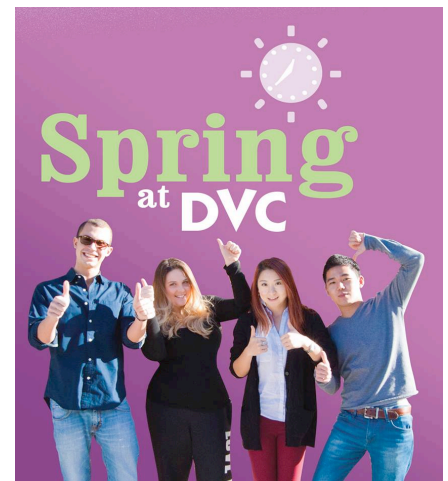
**RETIREMENT DINNER:  
A BARGAIN, INDEED!**

The regular DVC retirement dinner will be held on Friday, May 2 in the Trophy Room at DVC. The festivities start with a "meet and greet" at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. All are invited.

Deadline for reserving is April 25. For reservations, contact Ann Patton at DVC Faculty Senate, extension 22510; or 925-969-2510. Checks only - payable to DVC.

Honorees in attendance will be Jeanie Dewhurst, Bill Hammond, Ellen Kruse, Ellena Kutner, and Sue Rohlicek.

The entrée choices are salmon, chicken, or beef. Please indicate your choice when making your reservation.



from DVC website

## LET'S SAVE DVC'S HISTORY! REVIVE THE ARCHIVES

### DVC Archives, Oral Histories

As the founding faculty and staff start to fade, many insights and experiences fade and disappear: What were the major problems establishing the chemistry department? How would you compare your average student in the 50's and 60's with your average student when you retired? What bureaucratic improvements have we made since you started?--You get the idea.

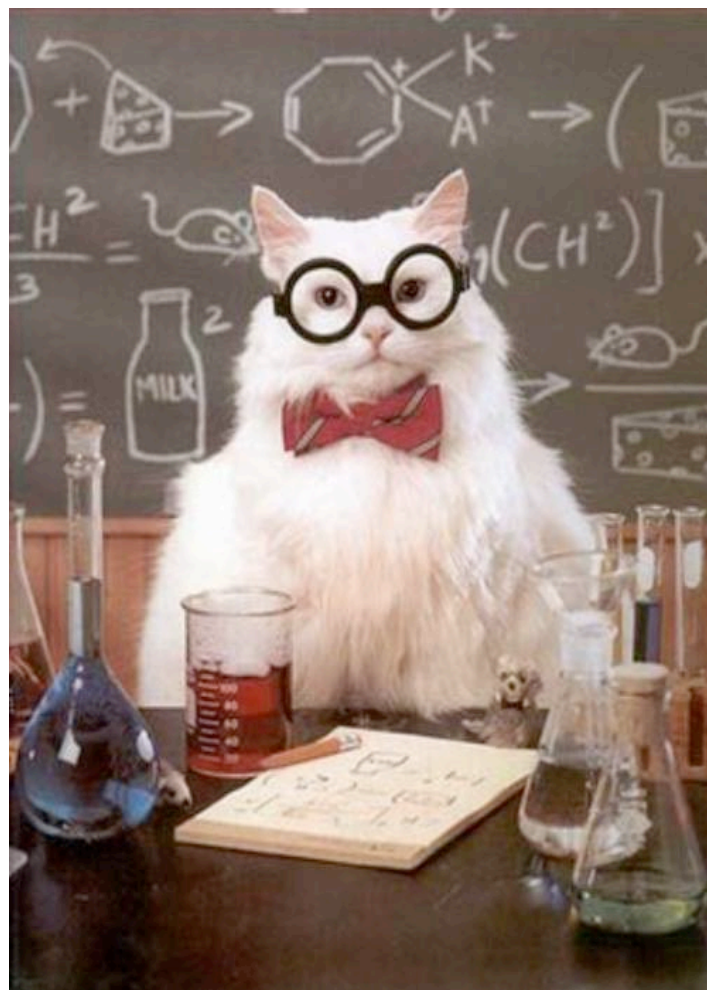
Oral histories are one effective way to nail down what we did. Much of what went on with the founding of DVC was trailblazing, some of it in fits and starts. There have been some great lectures, lesson plans, curriculum ideas, and paperwork changes which can be captured on audio or video. New faculty and staff -- and certainly old -- might well profit from watching others do what they do best. Work? Yes. Worth it? Your call.

The question then is: does the Retiree's Association want to create an on-going committee whose members will give time to arrange oral histories, evaluate and file material from our pasts, such as division newsletters, faculty articles and books, reviews, photos, purchase orders; material re: arguments over curricula; Faculty Senate minutes, debates, obituaries, anecdotes? Is there any value to preserving what we "were" and "are"? Or is history pretty much "bunk," as Henry Ford described history?

Two large rooms on the third floor of the library house the DVC Archives; they were organized by a professional archivist about 15 years ago,, but she was let go during a reduction in force. Since then, library personnel have been capturing just the bare necessities such as the catalogs and copies of *The Inquirer*.

Bruce Reeves, retired English instructor, has volunteered to be *temporary* chair of the Archives Committee to get the project going, if at least five members will join him. Once it's established, he will then return to doing the directory.

Are you willing to help? We do hope so. If you are willing to volunteer, please contact Bruce at [brucethebald@astound.net](mailto:brucethebald@astound.net)



from DVC website

Bruce Reeves not pictured above.