NEW LEADERSHIP · NEW PROGRAMS · NEW DIRECTION



The Magazine of the Pueblo Community College Alumni & Foundation



It is my privilege to serve as President of the Pueblo Community College Foundation Board of Directors. I have served on the Board for many years and was fortunate to have served under the leadership of the two previous Presidents—Tony Fortino and Joe Ulibarri. Both were extremely dedicated to the goals of the Foundation and spent countless hours helping to achieve those goals.

We are all proud of the many accomplishments that the college and the Foundation have achieved together. It is the Foundation's role, as stated in our mission statement, "to provide funding to the Pueblo Community College and its students through Foundation approved fundraising activities for student scholarships and special needs identified by the college."



Jack Quinn

The Foundation is in good financial shape. We are proud to say that of all the community college foundations in Colorado, ours is the largest. We currently have assets of \$6.7 million, of which \$5.5 million is restricted by the donors mostly for scholarships.

There are many ways in which you, the average citizen, can help support the Foundation such as adding the Foundation to your will or insurance policy, donating stock options, or creating an endowment to ensure a family named scholarship. We would encourage you to become a partner with us in helping students on a successful career path. Again, thanks for all you have done for Pueblo Community College.

Jack Quinn

President

Pueblo Community College Foundation



Celebrating the 75th Anniversary

Pueblo Community College and Colorado State University-Pueblo are jointly celebrating their 75-year anniversary this year, both having sprouted from a seed originally planted in 1933. It was on July 13, 1933, that the articles of incorporation of San Isabel Junior College (SIJC) were signed. From its origins on the Orman Avenue Campus, the college eventually split into what are now the community college and the university.

To commemorate that historic date, the two institutions of higher education have scheduled an all-day community celebration on Sunday, July 13, on PCC's Pueblo campus. The extravaganza will begin with a run/walk at 7:30 am and will conclude with a 5:00 pm performance by the Pueblo Municipal Band. The day will include a pancake breakfast after the run, a health fair, car show, art show, barbecue lunch, historical events and a full day of entertainment and fun activities geared for all age levels.

The kickoff to the Diamond Anniversary Year took place last November 8 when the two schools held a press conference on the steps of the Pueblo County Courthouse. The site was selected because SIJC's first classes were held on the third floor of the courthouse in the fall of 1933.

"Pueblo Community College continues the legacy of being a regional leader in education, workforce, and economic development," said PCC President Dr. J. D. Garvin. "We look forward to sharing our diamond anniversary celebration and shaping new opportunities and successes with our community and education partners."

contents

Letters from...the College and the Foundation

3 A Brief History of PCC

7 Mobile Learning Lab

8Workforce Training Grant

9 Hall of Fame Banquet

10 President's Circle Inductions

11 Calendar of Events

Law Enforcement Academy

New Energy Program

12 Fire Science

Cyber Security

13
PCC and SJBTC Merger

14 Reviving Fremont's Roots

Alumni Nomination Form

16 Cosmetology Ribbon Cutting

Dental Services get an A+

17
Reasons for Giving

18A student testimonial...

19

Alumni News

21 Donors List

Foundation Annual Report

Seventy-five years ago, in June 1933,

the face of southern Colorado was somber, bleak and hopeless. It was the deepest part of the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl was turning farmland across the country into sandy desert. People were out of work, farms dried up, factories locked their doors, and everywhere the rattle of soup lines and the calls of corner hawkers filled the streets. Jobs were scarce and hope scarcer. It was a time when a nickel could buy a lot, but it was awfully hard to get a nickel.





LEFT: The first classes, in the fall of 1933, were held in an unused part of the County Courthouse. Courtesy of the Special Collections Department of the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library

offering hope. Now it does this for thousands of people in eight counties and four different cities throughout Colorado, graduating hundreds each year, continuing the process of providing new opportunities.

Pueblo Community College was born during one of the most despairing times in American history, but with the mission of helping to change that history. It was founded with the knowledge that it would not be a place where people would stay, but a place where people would pass through its doors on their way to somewhere else. It survived three wars, spreading changes in American society, and the

endless crunch for money. It survived by adapting to the changing needs of a changing world, constantly tweaking the ways for students to find good jobs, and still survives by adapting programs to meet the needs of today's accelerated Information Age.

With an eye to the future, Pueblo Community College hasn't stopped its mission, nor will it. For 75 years it has been a place where people could find themselves with opportunities they never dreamed of, with the chance to change their lives from the ordinary to the extraordinary...and with the ability to instill hope.



PCC awarded \$2 million Workforce Training Grant

The U.S. Department of Labor awarded Pueblo Community College a nearly \$2 million, three-year grant to help meet an acute regional need for skilled employees in the advanced manufacturing industry. Training will impact production, maintenance and support staff for the existing manufacturing sectors in southern Colorado.

A large crowd was on hand at PCC to hear the announcement at a May 9 news conference. It included PCC representatives, community members, various city and workforce development officials from Pueblo and Colorado Springs, and state and regional U.S. Department of Labor personnel.

It is estimated that, over the three years of the grant, 450 individuals will be trained in Pueblo, Teller, El Paso and southeastern Colorado counties. Training will begin in January 2009. With the help of several regional partners, PCC, along with the Pueblo and Pikes Peak workforce centers, will develop and deliver job-readiness training and technical competencies to students as well as new and existing employees to prepare them to enter this field.

"This grant will be the foundation for establishing the Academy for Advanced Manufacturing and will further improve upon employer-driven training programs," pointed out *John Vukich*, Director of the Business and Industry Workforce Training Department at Pueblo Community College.



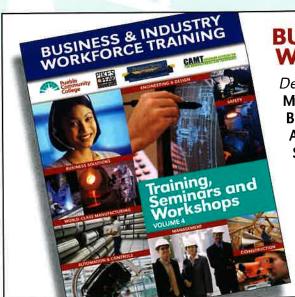
John Vukich, Director of the Business & Industry Workforce Training Department at PCC

The aim of the training program is to enable participants to qualify for jobs, improve work performance in their current positions and help facilitate opportunities for promotion. The project anticipates impacting 1,300 individuals in southern Colorado and affecting both short- and long-term industry needs.



Pueblo Joe's becomes new hot spot

Pueblo Community College has created a great new social hangout spot for its students, faculty, the community and staff to enjoy as its remodeled cafeteria has been turned into a coffeehouse café, lounge and student study area. Pueblo Joe's has earth-toned furniture, tile and walls. Three mounted television sets and two new computer work stations (one for students and the other for public use) were also added.



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Larry Stringari, Colorado Market President for Sunflower Bank

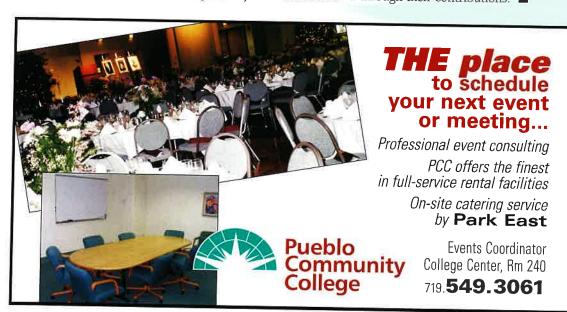
Two inducted into the President's Circle

On November 2, 2007, the Pueblo Community College Foundation honored two long-time donors by inducting them into the President's Circle. *Frank A. Petrocco* and *Sunflower Bank* were recognized for significant contributions in support of the college.

For 37 years, Frank A. Petrocco was a beloved teacher as well as an administrator for Pueblo School District 60. Frank was an active member of the National Education Association, the Colorado Education Association (CEA), and the Pueblo Education Association. Frank served as a representative for retirees at the annual CEA delegate assembly and is still a member of the Pueblo Board of Elections. Frank has established the Frank and Hazel Felton Petrocco Endowment to provide scholarships for Pueblo Community College students who have their sights set on an education degree.

Sunflower Bank is a \$1.4 billion community bank with 34 branch locations throughout Kansas and Colorado. Sunflower Bank provides a multitude of banking services, all with a focus on bringing out the best in each community, and creating possibility – the mission statement of Sunflower Bank. The bank has been a significant sponsor of Pueblo Community College since building the Fremont Campus back in the 1980s. Larry Stringari is the Colorado Market President for Sunflower Bank

The President's Circle was established in 1999 to showcase and thank outstanding Foundation supporters. Recipients or family representatives are presented with a soaring crystal eagle as our token of appreciation. It recognizes the spirit they have demonstrated through their contributions.





President's Circle Inductees

1999

Joseph A. & Barbara Fortino Clem & Marge Hausman LeVert Hoag

2000

Tom & June Healy Welte Family

2001

Dammann Family Art & Lorraine Gonzales

2002

Ruth M. Robinson Gene & Peachy Wilcoxson

2003

E. M. Christmas Intel Corporation

2004

Joseph W. Holloran Joan C. Occhiato

2005

Parkview Foundation Robert Hoag Rawlings Foundation

2006

Charles & Earlene Wolfers Robert E. Trisler

2007

Frank A. Petrocco Sunflower Bank

Fire Science

Pueblo Community College partnered with the Pueblo Fire Department (PFD) last November to launch a new Fire Science Technology associate degree and certificate program at both its Pueblo and Fremont campuses. The program's initial classes began during the spring semester, and additional courses will be taught this fall.

The program is intended to provide the 21st century skills needed to meet the anticipated shortage of firefighters in Pueblo, the surrounding region, state-wide and across the country in the near future. The shortage of firefighters is expected because of upcoming retirements,

promotions, and the conversion of volunteer firefighter positions to paid employees. The U.S. Department of Labor is forecasting great job prospects in the industry, and PCC and the PFD are partnering to train

the local and regional workforce.

The program has expert instructors able to give students the technical job skills needed to be hired in entry-level positions in the firefighting profession and to enable experienced firefighters to augment their training by completing a degree. The trend in the profession is for firefighters with more education and training to have an advantage over their job competitors.

PCC health professionals will teach Emergency Medical Services (EMS) core courses, and members of the Pueblo Fire Department will be the instructors on firefighting-related classes. The partnership will enable the college to use PFD training facilities.

One of the key aspects of the program is the EMS training since potential firefighters are now required to have those skills in order to take the hiring test, and those with advanced medical training are

more likely to be promoted. The reason is because 80% of the calls the Fire Department receives are now medical-related rather than fire-related.



ABOVE: Dr. Garvin discusses the program with firefighters

LEFT: Firefighters Eric Duran and Barbie McDowell

Cyber Security program launched

This past spring semester, students started reaping the benefits from a Packard Foundation grant that was awarded to Pueblo Community College last summer to establish a new Cyber Security certificate and degree program. The Packard grant was worth \$30,800, and corollary funding was obtained from a National Security Agency (NSA) grant for \$11,000 per year for three years through the University of Tulsa-Oklahoma, which is the designated lead U.S. agency for cyber security training.

Filed through Diane Porter, Executive Director of the PCC Foundation, the Packard Foundation grant enabled PCC to purchase forensics recovery devices and software and to equip a secured lab in the Gorsich Advanced Technology Center. The NSA grant enabled curriculum to be developed and the college's Computer Information System faculty to receive the

instruction needed to teach the curriculum.

With the initial classes having been held during this past spring semester, students are now able to learn the 21st century skills that will qualify them for excellent jobs in the expanding cyber security field. Those completing the program will have the option of beginning their careers in the field or transferring to a technical university to earn a bachelor's degree.

The salary level for those earning a certificate at PCC is expected to be in the \$40,000 range annually, while those acquiring a bachelor's degree can earn between \$50,000 and \$100,000 annually depending on the market.



LEFT: Forensic Recovery Evidence Device (FRED) used in cyber security system

BELOW: PCC student Tim Martinez at state-of-the-art equipment



Reviving our Roots on the Fremont Campus



With the help of Pueblo Community College Foundation funding, the PCC Fremont Campus in Cañon City is exploring expansion options through the re-use of the existing stone barn structure on the campus property.

PCC built the Fremont Campus and opened it in 2001. Since that time, enrollment at the campus has increased significantly, leading to a classroom shortage–especially during the evening hours–according to *Jennifer Pierceall Herman*, Dean of Branch Campuses. The number of students in the fall semester has increased by 36% since 2001, and the number in the spring semester has increased by 33%. The campus currently serves more than 600 students per semester in a building equipped with only nine classrooms and three labs.

The Fremont Campus was built on 55 acres of land transferred to PCC from the Department of Corrections (DOC) in the early 1990s. DOC used the land for its "Prison Gardens" where inmates grew produce and raised livestock for the local community. One of the remaining structures is a stone barn, built in 1937. Recently, PCC began the process of exploring the feasibility and potential designs for renovating the barn into an arts and humanities building with an outdoor amphitheater on the grounds.

Arts and humanities programming was chosen for the project based upon several factors, according to Herman. The large existing enrollment in studio art and general education humanities courses is currently located in classroom space not appropriate for that type of education. "We currently teach painting and other art classes in a large classroom originally designed to be a large lecture hall," said Herman. "The space has no running water and other essentials for that type of coursework. Plus, we are not able to use the space for other courses that could have a large number of students in a lecture format." The campus is also in need of spaces to accommodate large groups of students and community members for student and community events. "Since the building opened, he community has embraced the campus and he requests for using the building for non-credit tivities, meetings, workshops and art shows s increased significantly," Herman said.

The college also sponsors a large number of large-attendee programs such as the Senior Mini College and SPLASh (Summer Program Learning for Advanced Student for K-8 students in the summer). Student events, such as nursing pinning ceremonies, have had to be held off-campus due to a lack of flexible event space and venue with a stage.

The PCC Foundation committed funds to hire architects to develop conceptual designs and to determine the cost of a potential future building project. Stephen Hall Architects held several focus-groups at the Fremont Campus in March to gather input from students, staff, faculty, administrators and community members on their ideas and visions for use of the building and surrounding grounds.

The architects are using the focus-group feedback and information from PCC administrators to develop conceptual designs that will be available for additional public input during the summer.

"The exciting part about this project is the idea of honoring the history of the area by utilizing the barn building for community activities, but still developing a modern learning facility for students," Herman said. "The campus has already incorporated materials recycled from the prison gardens into some of the landscaping. The project would recycle and re-purpose a whole existing structure." The barn structure is constructed of hand-cut stone from surrounding landscape.

The conceptual designs may include an addition to the barn building, which would increase space for classrooms and events, and the development of a large outdoor amphitheater that would fit into the natural, mountainous landscape of the campus.

After the conceptual designs are accepted, PCC will determine the financial feasibility of the project and engage in fund-raising efforts to pursue the project.

Anyone interested in participating in the public input meetings, the Planning Committee, or in fundraising for the project should please call Jennifer Pierceall Herman at 719.296.6106 or Diane Porter at 719.549.3303.



TOP: PCC's Fremont Campus

ABOVE: Jennifer Pierceall Herman, PCC Dean of Branch Campuses





Exploring renovation of the prison gardens barn at Fremont Campus



Ribbon cutting a real beauty

A huge growth in consumer demand for personal appearance services has led Pueblo Community College to begin a cosmetology program in a beautifully remodeled building at the corner of Lincoln and West Abriendo Ave. In March, a grand opening of the program and building took place and the initial classes began.

The associate degree and certificate program will groom students for careers in cosmetology, which includes hairstyling, esthetics (facial care) and manicure (nail care). Students will receive the specialized technical skills to be prepared for great careers that have unlimited opportunities. Graduates will have the skills needed to pass their state licensing exam.

PCC previously offered a cosmetology program until dissolving it in the early 1990s. But with job opportunities in the field exploding (37 percent state growth rate, according to the Colorado Department of Labor), the time was ripe to reinstitute it.

The cosmetology department chair is Beth Ingo-Rider, who graduated from PCC's original cosmetology program in 1984 and has worked in the industry for 24 years. Rider plans to have her students actively involved in the community. They also will provide haircuts and other personal appearance services to the public as part of their training.

The program's 6,000-square-foot headquarters has two separate entranceways. One is for the cosmetology program and the other is for PCC finance offices while interior work is being done on the college's Central Administration Building. When that is completed, the finance offices will return to campus and PCC's massage therapy program will take its place.

PCC gets A+ in dental services excellence

When it comes to providing affordable dental services to low-income and uninsured residents of Pueblo County and southeastern Colorado, PCC gets an A+.

For many years, PCC has operated a Dental Hygiene Clinic in its Health Sciences Building. Then this past March, it used a \$509,000 Colorado Health Foundation grant to open a new Dental Clinic in the college's Medical Arts and Technology Building. The two clinics are complementary operations, referring patients to each depending on patient need and overseen jointly by the respective program chairs.

The Dental Hygiene Clinic provides preventive dental care, with Dental Hygiene students servicing patients under the supervision of program faculty and local dentists. Fluoride treatment, oral hygiene education, teeth cleaning and X-rays are among the services offered to the community.

Meanwhile, the new Dental Clinic provides reduced-rate services to individuals of all age levels who can't afford dental care. Because it has its own resident dentist, Dr. Emily Batson, it is able to offer restorative services such as fillings, extractions and crowns in addition to comprehensive exams, teeth cleaning, X-rays and oral health education. It also includes a dental assistant and a receptionist/billing clerk. Significant is that it provides excellent clinical opportunities for Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene students in addition to those enrolled in PCC's Office Administration program.

Pueblo Community College is the only college in Colorado to offer both Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene programs.



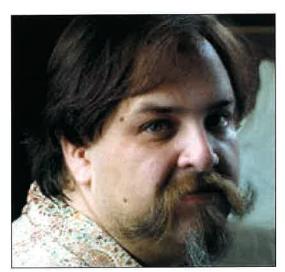
ABOVE LEFT: Ribbon cutting ceremony for the new PCC Cosmetology building

ABOVE: Beth Ingo-Rider, PCC Cosmetology Department Chair



Dr. Emily Batson, DDS Clinical Dentist Dental Assisting Clinic

A student testimonial...



by Edmond R. Iniguez

Almost three years ago, I was in a position where I had no prospects for the future. Unemployed and with only a high school diploma, my life had come to a grinding halt. In the previous years I had done everything, from operating computer systems to being a janitor. But as the world changed around me, I refused to change with it. My jobs had made me move within the circles of government, on the fringes of technology, and within the world of small business, but nothing seemed to work. The only future I could hope for was another temporary source of income that would last a few precious months. No matter where I went, I was met with the same end—that I was obsolete.

Don't get me wrong. I was obsolete but not without my talents. I could write, and had done so extensively, but my education and experience had been informal and without guidance. Being a lover of books and learning, I had read and studied extensively, but my knowledge was untested by not being questioned or called. I was moving within a world I had made, believing that reputation and intelligence can take a person far, but sometimes that's not enough.

I can still remember the day. I was panicking. Money was quickly drying up. I was scanning the want-ads for my next temporary attempt at staving off ruin, and there it was: an ad to enroll in Pueblo Community College.

Now, you must understand that I had been told by almost everyone I knew that I should go to college, that I was wasting my time and talent by working hand-to-mouth jobs and living paycheck to paycheck, but my self-educated pride wouldn't listen. That day, though, reality made me listen.

I enrolled the next day. They had made the process easy and painless, and within a week, it was done. Now, the only things I had to worry about were returning to school after a fifteensome-odd-year hiatus and how I was going to pay for it. My personal performance would depend solely upon me, which I wasn't too worried about, but the money problem kept coming back. In fact, it almost stopped me. But it didn't. Almost three years later, I've won awards for my writing abilities, written papers that have proven to me and others that I can compete in the world of academia, and even that I have previously unknown talents in painting and accounting. Now, my future holds nothing less than a Master's Degree with an eye to teach those who are in the same boat I was. Pueblo Community College made this possible.

Yet I have to give credit where credit is due. I began my stint in higher education with the same mindset I had when I was unemployed—that I would barely squeak by and get through by the skin of my teeth. I never thought of myself as an academic, as a good student, or good enough to be called "talented."

I was a "sit in the back of the room and be quiet" kind of guy in high school. If you don't get noticed, things stay easy. This is a good reality when you're 18 years old and things are free, but now, things are different. I'm 38 and college has to be paid for, and luckily, I took the chance to get noticed, and it was the Pueblo Community College Foundation that noticed.

Along with my underachiever mindset came the "I'll never get a scholarship" mentality, but it is this type of thinking that almost kept me out of college and probably kills others' hopes of bettering their lives. In the grown-up world, sometimes you do get rewarded for hard work, and college is one of them. I earned a 4.0 GPA my first term, then decided that I would apply for a scholarship and take the chance that I was good enough to be noticed, easing the stress that I was under when it came to the dollars needed to pay for school.

Am I glad that I did. With all of the academic honors and awards that were heaped on me, and the accolades I received from instructors, one of the highest honors I have received was from a committee of local donors who take it upon themselves to take chances on people like me. Without their help, this underachiever would have remained an underachiever. Now, this underachiever is an overachiever, and I thank each and every one of you who made it possible.



Felipe Martinez

PCC Culinary Arts student awarded national scholarship

A Culinary Arts student has achieved a "first" at Pueblo Community College. And, recognition aside, the nicest part is that it will help pay for his college education. Felipe Martinez has become the first student from PCC ever selected to receive the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation's Multicultural Foodservice and Hospitality Alliance Diversity Scholarship. The \$2,500 award is based on scholastics, financial need and an essay detailing enthusiasm for the culinary industry and how a student will benefit from the scholarship.

CEO of the Pueblo Latino Chamber of Commerce. They presented her with a 10-year plaque for her dedicated service to the Chamber.

1990s

Brenda M. Trujillo-Aranda '90, Pueblo, CO. Went on to graduate from Regis University with a B.S. degree in 1996 and Adams State College with a M.A. in 2002, Since 1996 she has been employed at Colorado State University-Pueblo. She is the Director of Student Support Services.

Kimberly L. Kushner '96, Pueblo, CO. Teaches science at Pueblo Community College.

2000s

Antoinette Lewis '03, Pueblo, CO. Hired as the Staff Ombudsman/Grievance Officer for the Colorado Department of Corrections. She also serves on the Pueblo Community College advisory council.

Dawnelle L. Mathis '04, Westcliffe, CO. Chair of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program at Pueblo Community College since January 2005. She holds a B.S. in chemistry and biology from the University of Sioux Falls in 1983. She received her paramedic certification from Pueblo Community College in 2003 and is a nationally registered paramedic. Besides her duties as EMS chair, she works part-time as a paramedic for the Summit County Ambulance Service. Her first few years of her career were spent working in veterinary research. Dawn lives in Westcliffe with her husband, Ted, a furniture maker and contractor, and their three children, two dogs and two cats. Hiking, organizing and keeping up with her teenagers keep her busy while not at PCC.

Michael O. De La Cruz '05, Pueblo, CO. Hired immediately upon graduation by St. Mary Corwin's Cardiac Cath. Lab. He scrubs in and works with cardiologists in various cardiac procedures (angioplasty/stent placement, pacemaker insertions, and cardiocentesis procedures). He also is in charge of radiation protection in the lab, Patients range from out-patients, to emergent, crash and burn, and flight for life. It can get exciting. He states, "I was very fortunate to be hired into a lab, I am a strong advocate for community college education, I felt well prepared for the workplace. I owe Larry Bontrager, Marlene May and the community college a great deal for this career and opportunity. Without their help, I would still be working a dead end job. I know from experience, the difficulties of finding a job here in Pueblo without the right tools. PCC has given me a future,"

Donald L. Meyer '05, Pueblo West, CO. Employed at Sanmina-SCI as a Cost Analyst, Don is an active member of the newly formed PCC Alumni Association.

Tamra Axworthy '06, Pueblo, CO. Is an Administrative Assistant II in the music department at Colorado State University-Pueblo.

MARRIAGES

Shawndee Marie (Swagerty) and **Justin Dale Baker** '05 were married in February 2008.

Melissa Edna (Belton) '06 and Christopher Nathan Johns were marred in April 2008.

Dawn Michelle (Breece) '04 and Jack Joseph King were married in December 2007.

Avery (Johnston) and **Justin Briggs** '06 were married on November 25, 2006.

Sarah June (Tooker) and **Eric Alan Copeland** '06 were married on April 21, 2007.

Isabel Marie (Cordova) '07 and Randall Dupre were married in November 2007.

Della Elenia (Hernandez-Drumm) and **Jose Cornejo** '06 were married in April 2008.

Amanda Nichole (Corsentino) '05 and Gabriel Michael Ballejos were married in January 2008.

Melissa Rae (Lopez) and $\bf Adrian~N.~Crespin~$ `05 were married in September 2007.

Christina R. (Deyne) '05 and Louie Martinez were married on July 28, 2007.

Rebecca A. (Gill) and **Jared Paul Diaz** '04 were married in March 2008.

Jean Ruth (Haver) '79 and Francis Leonard Dreesen were married in February 2008.

Amber Nicolle (Finn) '04 and John Paul Phillips were married in September 2007.

Esther Gardenia (Garduno) '05 and Rene Bonifacio Gutierrez were married in January 2008.

Anna Helenka (Green) '04 and Matthew Leonard Garcia were married in February 2008.

Mary Rosella (Griego) '05 and Alejandro Victor Avalos were married in September 2007.

Misty K. (James) '05 and Nicholas Trujillo were married on June 30, 2007.

Margot Marie (Justice) '04 and L. J. Elliott were married on July 21, 2007.

Carey L. (Lopez) '05 and Nicholas Perry were married on August 10, 2007.

Amber (Dawsen) and **David Madsen** '05 were married on November 25, 2006.

IN MEMORIUM

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