

R UPDATE

December 2018

Departing **STARS**



Brown, Viotto Combined to Work at PC for 69 Years

At about noon on Friday, Dec. 21, two Porterville College legends turned off the computers at their desks, walked to their cars in the parking lot and drove off into the retirement sunset – taking a combined 69 years of PC work experience with them and leaving those still at the college with some of their fondest memories.

Indeed, when the names Rosemary Viotto and Carol Brown come up in conversation, you can count on this: You're going to see nothing but ear-to-ear smiles and hear nothing but wonderful words. Everyone in the PC community knows them, everyone likes them, and everyone is going to miss them tremendously. That's what happens when two people work at the same place for so long and touch so many lives.

"Carol Brown is probably the most positive person I've ever known," PC interim President Bill Henry said. "She always sees the bright side of things, regardless of the situation. She has a tremendous work ethic and

Rosemary Viotto, left, and Carol Brown both retired from PC on Friday, Dec. 21. The two combined to work at the college for 69 years.

RETIREES

Continued From Page 1

great institutional knowledge. It's going to be tough in the president's office without her."

From Terry Harter, a network administrator at the college: "Rosemary was my right-hand woman for nine years. She was a great help. I really hate to see her leave."

Viotto got her start at PC in 1976 as a substitute library aide - her very first job. She also did audio-visual (AV) work in her role.

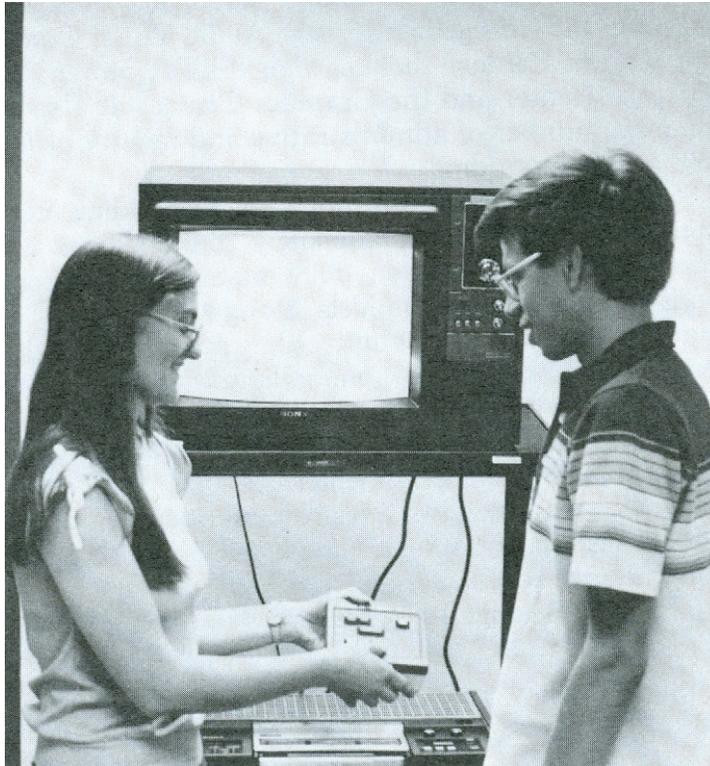
The following year, Viotto became a part-time library clerk and in 1978, she was given a full-time AV clerk position (her title was later changed to media technician). As the college's media technician, she copied DVDs and VHS tapes, managed the satellite receivers and downloaded satellite programs when PC still had a satellite dish, and filmed graduations and various student and employee events.

"I used to film a lot," she said.

Not only did she have her responsibilities as a media technician to manage, but from 1978 to 2011, she also worked the library's circulation desk two nights a week.

After working at PC for 42 years, what is Viotto's favorite memory?

"When I first started, the library was where the Fine Arts building is now," she said. "It was August, and the library staff and all the ladies from the front offices threw me a 25th birthday party in the library. They had music, cake and ev-



In this picture, taken in 1980, a 26-year-old Rosemary Viotto shows a PC library aide how students play three-quarter-inch videos. Viotto is holding the remote control.

everything. It was so much fun."

Asked what PC means to her, Viotto said, "This college was my life. I came here every day. It was home. But it's time for a new chapter."

Viotto isn't sure what that new chapter will look like exactly, but the chapter she penned at PC over the course of 42 years was an absolute gem.

As for Brown, she came to PC from Oak Grove Elementary School, where she was a teacher's aide for a year. Prior to her time at Oak Grove, she homeschooled her two daughters from kindergarten through seventh grade. Before that, she worked at Porterville Graphics as a typesetter and graphic artist. She spent

seven years at Porterville Graphics.

At PC, Brown first was a part-time department assistant III in the PC Foundation office, a position she held from 1991 to 1999.

"One of the people on the search committee for that position was the college president at the time, Paul Alcantra. Which, when I think back about that, is so unusual for a 19-hour position," Brown said. "There were six people on the search committee and they all took turns asking questions. I can't tell you what the other questions were, but I do remember his. He had the last one. He said, 'I have one last question for you. Here at Porterville College, we consider ourselves a family. We're very close.

My question to you is, why should we let you into our family?'"

Brown's response: "Family is very important to me. I have a very large family myself. Family always supports each other, family always look out for each other, family is there for each other through thick and thin. That's what family means to me."

A week later, Brown was offered the job.

In 1999, she moved into the president's office. She was a part-time department assistant III for a few years before becoming a full-time administrative assistant to the president, a position she excelled in from 2002 all the way up until her retirement.

Brown worked under three presidents: Bonnie Rogers (1994 to 2000), Bill Andrews (2000 to 2005) and Rosa Carlson (2006 to 2017). She also worked under two interim presidents: Lincoln "Linc" Hall (July to October 2000 and April 2005 to January 2006) and Bill Henry (2017 to current).

Essentially the president's first lieutenant, Brown did a little bit of everything in her role: She advised, she planned, she organized, and she was the calm in many storms.

"I was always watching. Whenever any of the presidents were getting stressed out, I wanted to relieve as much of their stress as possible," she said. "I would say, 'Let me take this or let me do that.' I wanted to support them in any way I could

RETIREES

Continued From Page 2

so they could focus on what they needed to do.”

So what will Brown miss most about PC? Easy: “The people. They’re like family,” she said.

What Alcantra said in that interview 27 years ago was most certainly confirmed.

In retirement, Brown is going to spend a lot of time with her family: husband Nick, daughters Nichole and Toni-Richelle, and grandchildren Megan and Dawson.

She’s also going to open her own boutique, called Gifts & Gatherings, in the old two-story

Konda house on Hockett Street in Porterville.

“In all of my jobs and life endeavors, I have always, always sought the Lord’s guidance, permission and confirmation of where He wanted me to be because of the lives there He wanted me to touch,” Brown said. “And I can say at 65 years old, He has never disappointed me or led me astray. He’s performed so many miracles to show His devout love and care for little ol’ me down here in Porterville, California.”

Indeed, the PC family is lucky both Viotto and Brown were led to the school at 100 East College Avenue so many years ago.



Former PC President Rosa Carlson speaks at Carol Brown’s retirement dinner Tuesday, Dec. 11, at El Nuevo in Porterville. Brown worked alongside Carlson for 11 years.



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BILL HENRY
PC Interim President



Rosemary was my right-hand woman for nine years. She was a great help. I really hate to see her leave.”

TERRY HARTER
PC Network Administrator

PC Hosts Milt Stowe Classic Men’s Basketball Tourney

For the first time in 17 years, Porterville College hosted a men’s basketball tournament, which took place Friday and Saturday, Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, in the PC gym.



Stowe

The Milt Stowe Classic featured four teams: PC, Bakersfield College, El Camino College and West Hills College Lemoore.

PC lost to BC 95-85 in an overtime thriller Friday night but bounced back to beat ECC 84-75 the following day.

Rob Haynes, in his sixth year as PC’s men’s basketball coach, organized the tournament and said he wanted to name it after Stowe because of everything Stowe has done for the city of Porterville and PC.

“What he’s done for this community and this college is truly incredible,” Haynes said. “I felt it was only right to dedicate this tournament to him.”

Said Stowe of the tournament being named after him: “I’m very honored and very humbled. Rob is such a nice, young man. I’ve always been in his corner. He does a good job of coaching and I’m very proud of him.”

Stowe attended PC from 1970 to 1972. He played basketball and baseball as a Pirate, earning honors in both sports. He also served as a student government representative while at PC.

After graduating from PC,

STOWE, Page 4

STOWE

Continued From Page 3

Stowe transferred to California State University, Sacramento, where he lettered twice in baseball.

He returned to PC in 1975 to become the Pirates' baseball coach, a position he held for seven years. He was also PC's first women's basketball coach, coached volleyball and was an assistant coach for the men's basketball team. In 1995, Stowe was inducted into the PC Athletic Hall of Fame

for his achievements on the baseball diamond.

Stowe went on to work for the City of Porterville's Parks and Leisure division for two-plus decades, holding such positions as superintendent, chief of operations, and director of parks and leisure/deputy city manager. He retired from the city in 2012 and from refereeing NCAA Division I basketball games, which he did for 30 years, in 2013. In all, he refereed for 41 years. He just wrapped up a four-year term as Porterville's mayor as well.

Though retired, Stowe remains

heavily involved in the basketball world. He assigns officials to Central Valley Conference games and grades Pac-12, Mountain West and West Coast conference officials online.

"He's everything you want to be in life," Haynes said. "He has a strong faith in the Lord, he's a great family man and he knows basketball. He's an overall great guy. I've never heard anyone say one negative word about him. That says a lot."

Added Stowe: "Once a Pirate, always a Pirate. I just love this college and this community."



Milt Stowe, center, and PC and BC coaches pose for a photo before tipoff of the PC-BC game Friday, Nov. 30, in the Milt Stowe Classic.



PC freshman Tayshawun Bradford, No. 11, goes up for a shot against BC on Friday, Nov. 30, in the Milt Stowe Classic.

Porterville College Foundation Alumni Hall of Fame Ceremony

When: Friday, February 1, at 5:45 p.m.

Where: PC Gymnasium

To purchase tickets or for more information regarding sponsorships, call 791-2319 or 791-2308 or email pcfoundation@portervillecollege.edu.

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