

Grandma gets new wheels

Yes, after 18 years with the old Cadillac Grandma and Grandpa decided that it was about time for a new car. The radio had died, the door handle was messed up, the air conditioning was making funny noises, and there were a few parking lot dings and scrapes.

A few months ago Grandpa saw in the Auto Club magazine an article comparing three luxury liners, the Audi S8, the Infiniti Q45, and the Hyundai XG350. The first two were priced in the \$60 - 80 thousand range and the Hyundai was listed at a mere \$24,000. The reviewer had some nice things to say about the quality and style of the 350, and Grandma, the Pic and Save shopper, saw at once the possibility of a bargain too great to

pass up on. When we asked Bruce and Bob G. about the Hyundai line they expressed some concern about reliability. Past Hyundai models have a history of poor performance. In order to learn more about this make Grandpa undertook an extensive Internet search, to see what he could find out. Robert recommended www.carpaintmsn.com as a source of information and ratings. Using it, we identified 14 makes comparable to the 350. We examined the consumer ratings and reviews sections, and found some surprising results. The worst rating was for the Toyota Camry, the next worst for the Honda Accord, followed by the Ford Taurus. Cars highly rated by owners were the 350, the Buick Century, the Volkswagen Passat the Mitsubishi Diamante, and the Saturn L. None of these other cars had as many extra features as the 350. Test drives by Bruce and Bob G. resulted in high marks by both, and they both estimated that the prior Hyundai reliability problems apparently have been corrected. Based on the information collected and the test drives we decided that the 350 was far and away the best buy, and with expert pricing help from Bob and Listy we closed the deal on the 9th of February.

At first Grandma was afraid to drive her new car, but after a little experience she is beginning to feel more comfortable in it. It will take a while to learn to make use of the many features, but time will take care of that problem, we hope.

Although the old Cad has been displaced, it is not gone from the family. It was given to Bruce and Birdy, and no doubt Bruce will cure some of its' problems and put it to good use in the Hartman family. We certainly thank Bruce, Birdy, Bob, and Listy for helping us make this big decision, and we are confident that it will work out well. We will bring the new car to the Easter Sunday party (see below) for all to see and check out.

Easter Sunday family outing!

Easter falls on the 31st of March, and plans are going ahead for our annual Lake Murray Park picnic and celebration. As usual we will meet around noon for food, fun, and games. Birdy has kindly volunteered to coordinate the whole affair, so watch your e-mail for instructions.

Birthday calendar for March

Margaret Riel	March 6	52
Jessica Benesch	March 17	19
Craig Hartman	March 19	19
Jeffrey Benesch	March 23	50



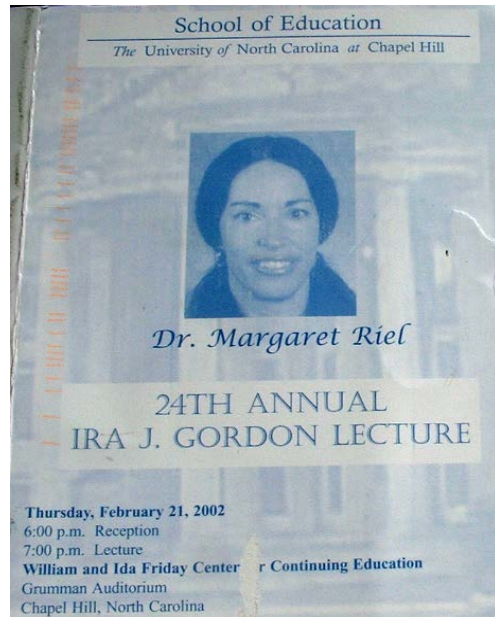
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Margaret speaks at The University of North Carolina

Recently Margaret sent us the following program where she was the featured speaker. It describes the occasion and the message she delivered.



Dr. Margaret Riel

Margaret Riel, a Visiting Professor at Pepperdine University in Malibu, California, teaches in the Online Master of Technology Program in the School of Psychology and Education. Riel began her research career studying interactive learning environments at the University of California, San Diego. Her focus was and still is on collaborative learning, facilitated but not controlled by technology. She has developed several models of network learning, specifically focusing on "cross-classroom collaboration" and "electronic travel" designs. Riel was involved in the initial design and evaluation of the Passport to Knowledge project. This project uses a combination of live television, electronic networking of scientists to students, online resources and in-class materials to involve students in the collaborative process of scientific discovery.

Her most recent online writing is: "New designs for connected teaching and learning," a white paper for the U. S. Department of Education Secretary's 2000 Conference on Educational Technology. She presented a shortened version of this paper as e-testimony to the Web-based Education Commission established by the U. S. Congress to develop policy recommendations for maximizing the educational promise of the Internet. Other recent publications include "School change with technology: Closing the digital divide," a summary of research in two large, urban, Hispanic elementary schools, and "Communities as places where learning occurs," a look at different forms of learning in communities. To read excerpts of Riel's work, please visit her website: <http://sep.pepperdine.edu/~mriela/office/>

Riel holds a B.A. from the University of California, San Diego; an M.A. from the University of Chicago, and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Irvine.

Ira J. Gordon 1923-1978

The Ira J. Gordon Memorial Lecture Series commemorates the contributions of Ira J. Gordon, Kenan Professor and Dean of the School of Education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill from 1977-78. An international authority on early childhood and parent education, Dr. Gordon was the author of twelve books, co-author of three additional books, and author or coauthor of countless professional journal articles. His studies focused on infant stimulation, parent-child transactions and infant competence, improving the development of disadvantaged children, and socio-emotional development.

Dr. Gordon taught at the University of Maryland, Kansas State College and the University of Florida. He was a visiting professor at the Florida College of Medicine, the University of Illinois, Rutgers and the University of New Hampshire. He was the first Distinguished Educator-in-Residence at Auburn University.

Former Gordon Lecturers

2001	Melissa Roderick	1989	Diane T. Slaughter
2000	John Willinsky	1988	Sara Lawrence Lightfoot
1999	Catherine Snow	1987	James B. Hunt
1998	Irving Lazar	1986	David P. Weikart
1997	David Berliner	1985	Edith Grotburg
1996	Lois Weis	1984	Bettye Caldwell
1995	Gloria Ladson-Hillings	1983	John Hill
1994	George Wood	1982	Ron Edmunds
1993	Nel Noddings	1981	Edward Ziglar
1992	Bella Rosenberg	1980	Susan W. Gray
1991	Elliot Eisner	1979	William B. Wate
1990	Henry Levin		

After the lecture Margaret took off for New York City for another work assignment. The American Museum of Natural History is in the process of putting together a series of teacher oriented computer programs designed to help teachers set up and present to their students various natural history topics. Margaret's task was to review the material they have accumulated and offer suggestions.

Afterwards she found time to visit the World Trade Center site. She commented that the site still gives off combustion fumes, and is a depressing thing to see.

Robert moves into his new facility

As we pointed out in the last RFNL, Roberts Dynalectric Information Technology company is now occupying its newly acquired facility. Most of the new space is completed, and Robert is in his new office. Grandma, Grandpa, Listy, and Birdy dropped in for visit recently, and got the grand tour. We have some pictures on the next page.

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technology more effectively in the classroom. Included were seminars on Technology in the Classroom, Math and Technology, WebQuests, and Computer Using Educators Leadership. The author of the article cited quotes from some of the attendees, including the following from Birdy.

"As we all know," says Mrs. Hartman, "we learn best by doing. Ojai is all about doing! You take your laptop to ever class and watch as your instructors demonstrate first hand how computers can be used to enhance your teaching lessons. And you have the benefit of the other teachers present constantly brainstorming on how they might substitute technology over traditional lessons. It was a powerful experience!"

Mrs. Hartman also appreciated the opportunity to focus on her own educational development for a time, without the everyday demands of normal personal responsibilities. "Usually," she says, "after going through a workshop, there is just no time in the school year to apply or change your thinking practices when you are caught up in your classroom and routines. Ojai's summer program gave you time to reflect on the direction you want to go in your classroom once the school year began."

Bob also commented as follows. "The setting and the set-up," explains Dr. Gillingham, "encourages collaboration and anxiety-free learning among the teachers, and I was really pleased to see how their advancing skill levels were being translated into specific and meaningful plans for integrating technology into their classrooms."

Every single teacher asked to contribute to the article commented on the quality of the food. "The goal of the week," reported senior kindergarten teacher Birdy Hartman, "was to give you the feeling of being pampered as you gave up some of your family time for professional growth. And pampered we were!"

Birdy attends TTTC at Thatcher School at Ojai, California



Recently we received a copy of the Parker Perspective and were surprised to see the above picture of Birdy and some of her teacher friends. It was a part of an article which described a week long seminar attended by a series of Parker teachers. The seminar was put on by the Thatcher School, and consists of 13 one-week summer courses designed to help teachers at all grade levels develop new computer skills and discover new ways to use

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Kristy wins scholarship at USD



Dad

Here's the information we have on Kristy. We're not sure if she'll go there, but we're thrilled to see her be recognized for her outstanding efforts. Listy

We have some additional information from Listy on their recent visit to Palm Springs, as follows.

On the bike ride we had Kristy, Listy, Shawn (Kristy's boyfriend), and David all ride in the Tour de Palm springs, a 25 mile bike ride. Bob decided to outdo us all by riding 100 miles. It was his first "century" ride and he was very happy with his race. Bob's next event will be the "challenged athletes" 1/2 Iron Man race. He will swim 1 mile, bike 56 miles, and run a 1/2 marathon. Now we know who's really crazy! That's all for now! Listy

Thanks for the news, Listy, and most of all **congratulations** to Kristy! We are proud of your accomplishments, and look forward to more in your coming college career.

Ed Riel working on new tomato growing concept

Ed recently unveiled to us his new tomato growing concept, the Terrific Tomato Tube. He



wants to develop a concept that reduces the frequency of watering and also provides some height, so that as the plant matures

the branches will not be spread out across the ground. The lower chamber is filled with water, and it soaks upward, keeping the plants continuously watered. Thus far he has experienced some minor technical problems with leakage at the bottom seal. Once they are overcome the testing can begin. Like all good scientific experiments we have controls planted in a pail, and we will be following the progress of the experiment with periodic photographs. Watch for more news as the season progresses.

