

Family celebrates Mother's Day with buffet luncheon and dessert bar

May 11th was the big day, and Grandma suggested that we eat lunch at her favorite Chinese restaurant, Mandarin Plaza.

Grandpa and Grandma have a regular routine on every Sunday after the 11am church service they go to Mandarin Plaza for the buffet lunch. Afterwards they see a movie, usually at AMC Fashion valley, or somewhere else. Because we are regulars at the restaurant we get special treatment from the owner and waitresses. Hence, it seemed like an ideal place for his special occasion. Carol and Jeff made the necessary arrangements, and everything worked out well. The food was excellent, as usual, and everyone enjoyed the celebration. Grandma was showered with gifts and flowers, and she thanks all who helped make this a special day. One special gift was the picture shown at right. It was taken during the celebration and expertly framed, and will occupy a special place among Grandma's collection of photos. Other great gifts included a pearl necklace, a bathrobe, and many cards and flowers. Although Margaret and Bud were returning from a trip, and could not make the lunch, they had sent ahead of time a live rose bush, which will be planted in the container on the patio outside the condo dining room. After lunch we set out for the dessert bar set out by Francie, at her home. There we enjoyed another round of eating, with lots of drinks, ice cream, cookies, chocolate covered everything, etc. We thank all who made this calibration so great, especially Francie, Carol, and Jeff.



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many things you do for all of us!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Jan celebrates 60th birthday Francie and Lyle host Family celebration

Yes, April 21, 1948 was the beginning for Jan, and 60 years later she enjoyed not one, but two parties. The first one was organized by Ed, Kevin, Chris, Nathan, and Tim, and was held at the home on Larkspur Street, in O.B. Unfortunately, Grandpa and Grandma were not able to be there, but we understand that a great time was had by all. However, the second one, held a few days later, was well attended, and we were there for sure. As usual, the hosts had laid out lots of snacks to start off the buffet lunch. The featured entrée for lunch consisted of different kinds of steak, expertly broiled by Lyle.

Afterwards, we gathered around the outdoor round table with the gas heating flame to talk about Jan's 60th milestone. Grandpa commented that he remembered the first time we met Jan, before she and Ed were married. He told about how he and Grandma were not really sure who she was or what her intentions were. However, after we got to know Jan and saw how she raised her family we realized that she had far exceeded our best expectations.



Francie then expressed some of her thoughts on the same subject, as follows.

One of the wisest things brother Ed has ever done was to bring Jan into our family. And bringing us all together to celebrate her 40th birthday (she has been counting backwards on years for some time now) was even a better decision. Any excuse to have a party! And party we did, with great barbecue selections courtesy of the Grill King, Lyle. Tasty side dishes and deserts were contributed by all and the weather was warm and beautiful. Thanks to all who made this a wonderful event, but most of all thanks to Jan for all the years of loving friendship, we appreciate all the



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Tim biking across America again!

Dear Grandma and Grandpa,

I hope things are going well down in San Diego. It's pretty cold up here in San Francisco. I still have yet to adapt to anything less than 70 degrees. I'm not sure how anyone survives living on the east coast. Apart from the weather things in San Francisco couldn't be better. I'm still in school up here and hoping to finish by the time I'm 40. There's a lot to get sidetracked with up here. I'm still working for Safeway. I do like my job (Front End Manager), but looking forward to that day when I can take a job that's more geared towards my major in school. Until then I'm just living and finding ways to give back to my community.

I wanted to thank you again for your support in Bike and Build two summers ago and let you know that I'm planning on participating with them one more time... the charity bug has bitten me.

Starting on June 11th, thirty young adults will set off from Jacksonville, Florida on a 3,700 mile cross-country fund raising bike ride trip to benefit affordable housing efforts.

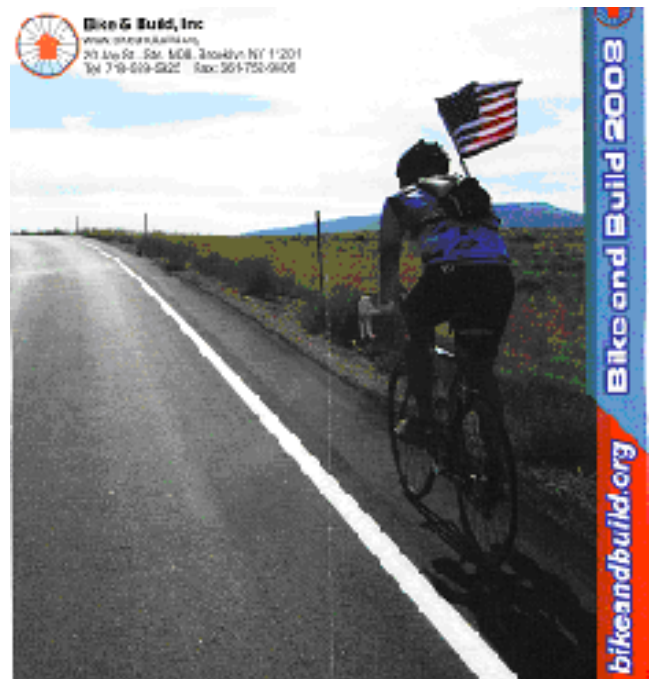
The trip, called Bike and Build will bring hundreds of enthused and energetic students together on seven different cross-country rides. My ride, starting in Jacksonville, Florida and ending in lovely San Francisco, California, will raise money to build affordable efforts for low-income families. While on the road we will meet with members of the communities we pass through, inform them about our trip and the affordable housing issue, and help them become involved in efforts to alleviate the problem. There will also be several days (plus a week in New Orleans helping rebuild after the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina) when we'll take a break from riding and help in the actual construction of affordable homes with Habitat for Humanity affiliates and other local housing organizations.

Bike and Build would love to receive a contribution of what ever you can afford for this very important cause. All proceeds will be distributed to affordable housing groups (like Habitat for Humanity) throughout the United States to finance projects executed by young adults. Prior to our trip Bike and Build will solicit grant proposals from housing organizations. During the course of the trip, we as riders will evaluate and discuss the applications, and – as a group – decide which proposals to fund. I am writing to ask for your support by making a tax-deductible contribution. Your donation, together with the contribution from hundreds of other concerned citizens, will have a serious impact on the affordable housing landscape throughout the country.

As part of our commitment to Bike and Build, I will be working with them up until the start of our trip, learning about the affordable housing issues, and – of course – helping to build homes. I have enclosed some material that we hope will give you a better taste of what Bike and Build is about, in case you forgot. Also, please take a look at our website, www.bikeandbuild.org, for more information.

I hope you will consider making this donation again and thank you in advance for your continued support.

Love Always,
Timothy Riel



Brett's friend/fellow actor killed in shark attack

Francie sent us the following note and San Francisco newspaper article describing the tragedy.

This is a story about a very nice young man who was one of Brett's friends in San Francisco. He got Brett his job at the Starlight Room and at Holy Cow while Brett was in college there. Please remember him and his family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

IXTAPA, Mexico (KGO) -- On Tuesday night, friends of a San Francisco man who took a surfing trip to Mexico, got the tragic news that he is the victim of a shark attack. Mexican authorities say it happened off the Southern Pacific Coast at

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picture of Ruiz in Indonesia last year surfing. However, on Monday in Ixtapa, Mexico, Ruiz died after being attacked by a shark. "He loved to surf. He died doing something that he loved," said one of Ruiz's close friends, Eric Griffin. The gray shark, believed to be 600 to 700 pounds, bit Ruiz's right thigh, leaving a 15 inch wound. His friend Brant Helms was surfing with him and brought him to shore, but by the time they arrived at the hospital, Mexican authorities say Ruiz died due to a severe loss of blood. He was only 25.

"Always had a smile on his face. Always would cheer you up if you were in a bad mood. No matter what was happening, you could hang out with him and you'd be happy again. How much he's going to be missed and how much he's loved," said Griffin.

This is the second shark attack along the Pacific Coast in the past several days. On Friday, a great white shark killed a 66-year-old tri-athlete, who was swimming off the San Diego coast. Both attacks are considered to be rare.

According to reports from Mexico, an ambulance was called and was on its way, but because the attack happened at such an isolated location, a bystander drove Ruiz to the hospital instead. It's uncertain whether the delay in getting medical treatment made any difference.

We certainly were sorry to learn that Brett has lost a friend and fellow movie maker. It certainly is rare for a shark to attack a swimmer, but two fatalities in a short time is enough to be of some concern. Perhaps one lesson to learn from the above experience is to avoid surfing in remote areas, where emergency help is not readily available.

Faculty Honored with Best Practices for Excellence in Distance Learning Teaching Award



Margaret Riel,
Visiting Faculty in
the Education
Division at the
Pepperdine

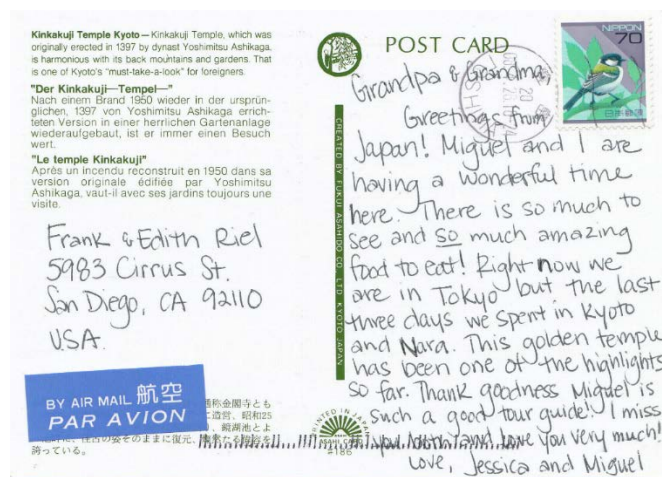
University Graduate School of Education and Psychology was honored with the world's most prestigious distance learning award at the United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) 2008 National Conference in St. Louis, Missouri.

In the category of Best Practices Awards for Excellence in Distance Learning Teaching, Riel took home the Gold level award for Online Technology in Higher Education. This prestigious international award is presented annually to organizations and individuals engaged in the development and delivery of distance learning programs. The USDLA Awards were created to acknowledge major accomplishments in distance learning and to highlight those distance learning instructors, programs, and professionals who have achieved and demonstrated extraordinary results through the use of online, videoconferencing, satellite and blended learning delivery technologies.

Dr. John G. Flores, CEO of USDLA commented, "Each year these winners raise the bar and exceed best practice expectations for the industry as a whole and we are truly honored by their contributions to the distance learning industry." Margaret J. Weber, Ph.D., Dean of the Graduate School of Education and Psychology added, "This is a wonderful recognition of Dr. Riel's development and support of the virtual learning environment and the learning experiences she provides for our students."

News of the award will be included in the June edition of USDLA's *Distance Learning Today* quarterly supplement. *Distance Learning Today* appears in *USA TODAY's* top-tier markets for distance learning - major commuter hubs, convention centers and hotels. Since 1987, USDLA has been the world's premier distance learning association.

Jessica tours Japan



Jessica has promised a detailed report on her vacation visit to Japan, and since we are out of space anyway, will continue it in the June RFNL.