

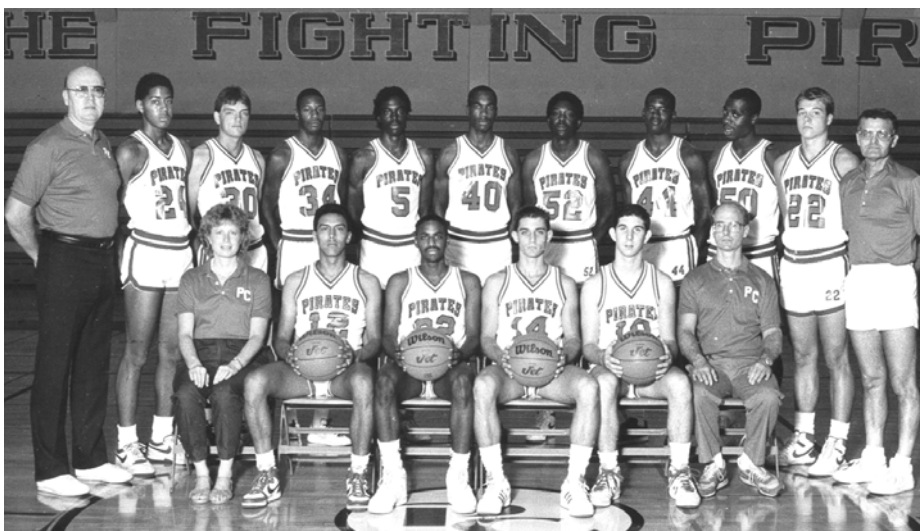
## ILLUSTRIOUS PC ALUM, JIM MAPLES, DIES

Jim Maples, best known as a Hall of Fame basketball coach, passed away September 17th at his home in Morro Bay, where he and his wife, Myrna, were living as retirees. Their daughters, Vicki and Jamie, were at his side. Jim was born in Oklahoma and moved with his family to Porterville as a young boy. He attended Porterville High where he participated on two league championship basketball teams and the baseball team. He attended Porterville College from 1951-53 and earned awards in football, basketball, baseball and tennis. He was team captain in basketball. From PC, he went to Fresno State, where he played basketball. He earned his masters in vocational education from UCLA and began teaching at PC in 1958. He served as academic advisor, drafting instructor and work experience coordinator, along with his coaching career, totaled 34 years on the PC campus.

Jim won 310 games in 22 seasons as head coach of the Pirates. His 1978 team won 25 games and finished third in the state tournament. Some of his other great team finishing scores were 20-3 in 1960; 19-9 in 1962; 23-6 in 1963, and 20-10 in 1965. He was inducted into the California Community College Basketball Hall of Fame in 1986. That honor was one of his most revered as it was not based on longevity, wins and losses or popularity. It was based on dignity, dedication, and honor that he brought to the game and the contributions and sacrifices he made for the betterment of players, officials, coaches, and spectators. He was also named to the PC Athletic Hall of Fame. What many probably don't realize is that he also coached baseball, golf and tennis and served as athletic director from 1967-69.

The man, known as "Gentleman Jim" in the coaching fraternity was most proud that the Burton School District named a school after him, the Jim Maples Academy. His service to the community included 15 years as a member of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors appointed in June, 1992 representing District Five: Porterville, Springville, Terra Bella, Ducor, Camp Nelson, and surrounding areas of Southeast Tulare County. He was re-elected without opposition in 1994 and 1998 and then re-elected to a third term in 2002 with 74% of the vote. He was Chairman of the Board in 2003, 1994 and 1999. Jim's emphasis as Supervisor was working to strengthen law enforcement, preserve farm land, and streamline county government. He believed in "less government and better service for less cost."

In addition he was past chairman of LAFCO; TCAG, and Kings-Tulare Area Agency on Aging. Besides being listed on PC Hall of Fame, he was placed on Porterville High School Wall of Fame. Received Book of Golden Deeds Award by the Exchange Club International. Honorary member of Sierra Sunrise Rotary, Springville Community Club, Springville Lions. Rotary International Paul Harris Award.



On Saturday, September 26, 2009 hundreds of people from all walks of life and government attended a celebration of life in his honor, featuring testimonials from many of his friends, co-workers, and former players. It was a beautiful and memorable tribute to one of Porterville's and Porterville College's most honored and respected graduates, coach, and faculty member. The list of awards he received was long, including the Allen Coates award for service to the community, but as one of the speakers said, "All of those awards will be forgotten while the kind of man he was will be remembered forever."

# PC Professor Has An “Enlightening” Experience



Dr. Bezayiff has been voted by students as having “the best classroom presentation” by a faculty member for the past two years.

“Seeing the Eclipse of the Century” by Dr. David Bezayiff, History Professor ~ On July 13, 2009 my wife Ann Marie and I left LAX to see the longest solar eclipse of this century.

Our journey took us to Beijing, Tianjin, Cheju (South Korea), Kagoshima, Kobe, and Kyoto (Japan), and just northwest of Iwo Jima. By air and sea we traveled about 21,000 miles to see the eclipse. And, as we learned, we had become a part of an elite group of people, called, “eclipse chasers,” who each year, watch a solar eclipse. On our ship, there were about a 1,000 people, astrophysicists, astronomers, a

neurosurgeon, physicians, representatives from various astronomy magazines, directors of observatories, educators, retirees, business people, photographers, writers, editors, cartographers, amateur astronomers, and even a federal marshal whose work focused on drug cartels. This was our first total solar eclipse, but for others, it was their third, seventh, ninth, or sixteenth eclipse.

Each academic year Dr. Bezayiff has a theme for his classes. The 2009 theme is...

***“Education is about possibilities. Forty years ago a man walked on the moon. Forty years later, a once migrant worker became an astronaut. Education. There is no substitute for it.”***

mountain and raise the flag. It would take nearly another six weeks to secure the island—for only a couple miles of real estate. The combined American and Japanese casualties would reach nearly 60,000.

On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, near noon, the eclipse began. It would last for 6 minutes and 40 seconds. The sky collapsed into darkness, the temperature dropped about 27 degrees, shadows emerged, and then, ever so slowly, the sun began to reemerge from the moon. It was, breathtaking, overwhelming, and incredibly spiritual. On another note, a solar eclipse of this length will not occur for another 125 years.



The total solar eclipse as seen through the camera lens of Dr. Bezayiff.

Just before our ship sailed on to see this eclipse, we passed nearby the island of Iwo Jima. Plainly in view was Mt. Suribachi, where the American flag had been raised. On board our ship was a veteran of that battle, and for me personally, there was a profound silent reflection and salute, to those who fought there. It had taken ninety minutes to secure the ground around the



Island of Iwo Jima.

PHOTO BY DAVID BEZAYIFF