

JIM AND JEANETTE GENN



Jim and Jeanette Genn have spent 40 years of their life giving their time and talents to Adventist educational institutions—but the core of their work was at Monterey Bay Academy. They met while in high school and were married “when we were just kids,” says Jim. But it was a match made in heaven as they celebrated 63 years of marriage on February 20, 2017.

When Jim and Jeanette were called by the MBA Alumni Office and informed that they were going to be honored on Alumni Weekend for their years of service to MBA, they instantly voiced their gratitude and then Jim said, with a chuckle, “Well,

I probably hold the record for the number of times a staff member has come and gone from MBA”—a statistic that has been confirmed.

Jim and Jeanette’s first term at MBA began in 1961, when Jim was called to replace a maintenance employee who had left before the school year began. “That was in the day,” says Jim, “when we were hired to do a specific discipline.” The first term was a short one for the Genn’s, ending in 1963, when they returned to the Central Valley to run a business they still owned. They didn’t stay away long, however. In July 1970, they returned to MBA for their second term, this time staying until May of 1976.

There was a third and fourth term at MBA for Jim and Jeanette, bringing their years of service here to over 17 years. During those years Jim kept MBA running, doing everything from fixing windows, doors, dripping faucets, and clogged drains, to keeping tired electrical circuits going, and working in the garage maintaining machines and school vehicles. If there was something that needed fixing, Jim fixed it. There are few buildings on this campus, if any, that Jim did not maintain at some point.

Jeanette also left her mark on MBA. Not only was she the pillar of strength behind Jim and a busy mom to their four children, Jeanette was a talented artist and taught art from 1984–1988.

One of the most rewarding projects that Jim was involved with while at MBA was the construction of the church. It was a challenging project, but there were many blessings as well. Major contributions were made by staff members, parents, students, and alumni. Jim’s

contribution, along with the help of Mark Johnson, was the installation of the entire plumbing system.

In 1988, Jim and Jeanette left MBA for the fourth time and moved to Pacific Union College. After spending two years there, they moved to Modesto to run the business they had continued to own. Their service to Adventist education was not yet finished when in 1996 they moved to Lodi Academy where Jim managed the maintenance department. Then it was back to Modesto where Jim was in charge of building the new Modesto Adventist Academy facility. In 2000, Jim and Jeanette officially retired. But according to Jim, that's when he really started working, as they continued to "work" by volunteering their time all over the Central California Conference.

MBA is proud to recognize Jim and Jeanette Genn for their many years of service, their support and dedication to Adventist educational institutions, and more specifically for their devotion to "our home by the shore."