

## ROBERT AND BETTY BAERG



Bob and Betty Baerg, MBA faculty members for 38 years, devoted their careers to serving young people through math and physics education. However, more importantly, they devoted their lives to educating and arming teenagers with the knowledge of Jesus Christ and His love for them.

These two have been mirror images for much of their lives. They met at La Sierra University. Each of them graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Physics as well as a Master's degree in Physics, completing their studies in 1964. They headed off to their first teaching jobs at Indiana Academy. After two years of snow and cold weather, they received a call to come to Monterey Bay Academy and experience *Where Land and Sea Unite to Inspire*. They must have

been thoroughly inspired as they settled in—not imagining they would spend the rest of their careers at MBA.

Both of the Baerg's have received numerous recognitions throughout their careers as well as contributing to the secondary education system through their volunteer efforts. Both were recognized as:

- Zapara Award Winners for Teaching Excellence
- Alumnus and Alumna of the Year by La Sierra University School of Education
- Teachers of Excellence by the Alumni Achievement Awards Foundation

Each participated in the Central California Conference Mentor Teacher Program from 1997–2004 thus imparting their experience to the next generation of teachers. Both were Math and/or Physics session presenters for California Private School Teachers Conventions as well as the North American Division of SDA Teacher's Conventions.

MBA history notes that they were the early pioneers of integrating technology into the classroom. They encouraged their MBA colleagues to follow suit and helped them establish technology in their own classrooms. Bob and Betty's vision for the future of education has been captured by the establishment of the Baerg Endowment. Funds for the endowment are dedicated to keeping MBA on the cutting edge of technology in the subject areas of math, chemistry, and physics in particular. Anyone may donate to this endowment.

Bob and Betty retired to Arizona nearly seven years ago. Their volunteer spirit is evidenced in many ways. Bob is an officer in the Homeowner's Association where they live. He teaches classes in Excel, Access, and PowerPoint to the senior citizens within their community. He's also actively involved with the establishment, operation, and maintenance of the audio/visual needs for the Apache Junction Church and the Homeowner's Association. Betty volunteers as the Bags of Love director, treasurer for the church and the church school, Women's Ministries Leader, and co-facilitator of the East Valley AZ Chapter of Bosom Buddies. Both still return to MBA in the summer and other times throughout the school year to volunteer as needed.

For these reasons, we are proud to recognize Bob and Betty Baerg for their teaching excellence, pioneer spirit in educational technology, and volunteerism for their community and Monterey Bay Academy.