

Former 1967 Classmates Meet Up, Stay Fit on St. Simons Island

During their freshman year at SJC, 1963-64, Barbara Bruning Browne and Mary Rosenberger Lynch, members of the Class of 1967, didn't "hang out" with one another, but now they keep in touch and stay in shape at the St. Simons Health and Fitness Club. The two, who both moved to St. Simons, the second-largest barrier island off the coast of Georgia, in 2005, were brought together by 1967 Class Secretary Ann Wyllie Mulroy.



"We probably wouldn't have recognized one another, had Ann not told us that we were neighbors on St. Simons," Mary says. "We can't remember who called whom, but we got together for lunch several years ago and saw one another occasionally at parties and art events," Mary says. But now they're running into one another even more, as both are members of the same fitness club.

"We didn't join the gym at the same time but do see one another there regularly," Mary adds. Barbara usually takes a stretch class and Mary and her husband Larry take classes that include aerobics, weights and floor exercises. When their workout times coincide, the former classmates meet afterward in the cafe area for coffee and conversation.

Barb, who lives with her dog Sunny and cat Willow, moved to St. Simons after retiring from 37 years in education. She transferred to the College of Notre Dame in Baltimore after her freshman year at SJC, and then worked as a classroom teacher, a special education teacher, and an elementary school guidance counselor. Now she enjoys living near the beach, exercising at the health club, bike riding, jogging and fishing. Her most recent trip was a bicycle/barge cruise in Holland.

For the past 20 years Barb has completed the "Bicycle Ride Across Georgia," during which about 1,500 people ride across the state for one hot week in June, sleep in tents at night and enjoy the sights from the seat of a bicycle. This year Barb and her friend Roger are participating in "Bike Virginia," riding about 50 miles a day, but in hopefully cooler temperatures and with evening stopovers at hotels. When the weather gets too hot on St. Simons or when Barb longs for fall color or winter white, she escapes to her hideaway in the north Georgia mountains.

Mary and Larry, a retired art educator, are very involved in the St. Simons community. She belongs to two garden clubs and the local rose society, and is contributing her time and talents to the St. William Parish Twinning Program (Haiti) and youth ministry. Last fall, Mary played a Hot Box Girl in a local production of "Guys and Dolls."

As a result of a mission awareness trip to El Salvador in 2008, both Mary and Larry are advocates for the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging, a lay Catholic organization working with persons of all faith traditions in 24 countries throughout the world. Mary also volunteered with members of her parish in assisting victims of Hurricane Katrina in Pass Christian, MS.