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If you enjoy reading this, thank my teachers

I HOPE YOU are enjoying a wonderful summer! I can think of one group that can certainly use the break. I decided to dedicate this column to them—our teachers!

As many of you know, I studied science, math and engineering in college. However, no one ever compliments me on a formula or equation I've written. If a member ever says anything to me, it is usually about this column. For that reason, I want to pay a tribute to the wonderful ladies who taught me English in high school.

I was fortunate to be able to gather each of them at my old high school (now Pleasant Hill Elementary School) in June. Thank you to Principal Teddy Graham and Guidance Counselor Sonya Marsh for helping set this up! These ladies are still just as passionate about the great writers as I remember 25 years ago!

Dohnree Cribb taught me four classes. She was my Spanish teacher for two years and taught an honors class called The Autonomous Learner. However, it was the English II class she taught my freshman year I remember well. I love Julius Caesar and Huckleberry Finn to this day because of her.

Susan Welch taught my yearbook production class. I cannot express how much I treasure the senior yearbook we worked on in her class. She also taught my public

speaking class and was my American Literature teacher in 10th grade. In her class I read "The Scarlet Letter" and "The Crucible," and studied the poetry of Whitman and Frost. I will never forget "The Road Not Taken."

Sheila Hanna taught my English IV class when I was in 11th grade. She taught us Hamlet and Macbeth. She also had the daunting task of exposing rural Georgetown County students to the Old English of "Beowulf" and the Middle English of "The Canterbury Tales." Mrs. Hanna was still teaching when we took the picture below. She is retiring this year—congratulations!

Pleasant Hill High was without an Advanced Placement English teacher when I started my senior year. However, despite having a full teaching schedule already, Sybil Collins stepped in! She poured a year of teaching—and a lifetime of compassion and dedication—into a semester. Because of her efforts, I passed my AP exam!

We are where we are today because we have had great teachers. They educated us, led us and loved us. "And that has made all the difference."

ROBERT G. ARDIS III
 President and Chief Executive Officer



Santee Electric CEO Rob Ardis visits with his high school English teachers (from left) Susan Welch, Dohnree Cribb, Sybil Collins and Sheila Hanna.

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