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SJSU ERFA News, Spring 2018

San Jose State University, Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

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SJSU
ERFA
News

A Newsletter of the San Jose State University Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

University and Academic Senate Report

Inside . . .
Arlene Okerland visited Hyde Park, NY, as a young girl and having recently gone back, came away with renewed appreciation for Eleanor Roosevelt. Pages 4 and 5.
Peter Buzanski remembers old Quebec fondly, but on a recent visit he found the new Quebec a disappointing place. Page 6.

Why is Executive Order 1110 so controversial?

By Peter Buzanski
(SJSU-ERFA Senator)

When the Master Plan of Higher Education was enacted in 1960, the new CSU System was created to accept the upper one-third of California's high school graduates. Four years later, San Jose State College (its current name came a decade later) inaugurated Robert Clark as President. In his first address to the faculty, Clark told of his ambition to transform our teacher's college into a liberal arts university. By the time Clark left to head the University of Oregon he had accomplished that goal.

Soon after arriving, Clark wanted to enroll students who were not in the upper one-third of high school graduates, by using the same 4% formula that allowed the admission of athletes. Clark's reason was to allow more minorities, primarily African-Americans, to enter. Being on the President's Executive Committee at that time, I opposed the measure, arguing that California had a superb system of Junior Colleges which provided remedial education for students unqualified to enter SJSU. Clark's response was a political one: African-American students faced such discrimination throughout society that we needed to begin eliminating it on our campus. His view prevailed. Students lacking competency in English and Mathematics would be given remedial courses on our campus.

Much has changed a half-century later. Now, far more students want to enter CSU's 23 campuses than there is funding to provide for them and the campuses are becoming impacted. Currently some 40,000 students are unable to enroll in a CSU campus. In addition, the present 120-unit maximum load prevents students from enrolling in courses not required in their major

or that are part of the General Education curriculum. There is no more room for remedial courses. As a result, the proposal before us is to work remediation into existing GE courses that already are crowded with curricular content. No SJSU administrator wants to admit that this dilutes the subject matter, thus weakening the SJSU
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Call For Nominations To The SJSU-ERFA Board

By Don Keeseey (English)

It's election time for our Executive Board and both elective and appointed positions are open to all ERFA members. The elective offices to be filled this year are: Vice President (to serve as President in the 2019-20 year), Treasurer, Secretary, Academic Senate Representative, and one Member-at-Large. In addition, our nominating committee will recommend appointments to the following positions: Membership, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, Consolations, Activities, Archivist, and CSU-ERFA Representative.

If you would like to be a candidate for any of these positions, please email Gene Bernardini geebernard@comcast.net for details. The deadline is April 13.

At the May 11 Spring Luncheon, which doubles as our annual business meeting, a slate of candidates will be recommended and the members in attendance will cast their votes.

calendar

Thursday, April 5, 2018

Spring Excursion

Moss Landing Marine Lab
Elkhorn Slough Boat Tour

(See Enclosed Flyer)

Friday, May 11, 2018

Spring Luncheon

Featuring The SJSU Choraliers

Location: The Villages

University and Academic Senate News

Graduation ceremony or ceremonies?

(Continued from Page 1)

baccalaureate degree, but among the faculty the verdict is different. This is only one of the controversial aspects of EO 1110.

The rapid imposition by the Chancellor's Office of this order, with no input from the individual campuses, and the fact that the order goes to the heart of curricular issues, the one area where faculties have maximum competence, is another reason why EO 1110 is so disliked.

The Commencement Controversy

Extensive construction in the fields around Spartan Stadium is seriously restricting parking in that area and will have an important impact on the 2018 graduation ceremonies there. President Papazian, working with various committees, has come up with a solution that is causing consternation among College Deans, faculty and graduating students. The decision is not to have one single graduation ceremony at the Stadium, but seven different events, at different

times and days, in different locations, including the new Avaya Stadium near the San Jose Airport where few students have ever been before. Admittedly, no solution by the President would be able to satisfy everyone. Still, the final decision means there will be no distinguished scholar invited to give a traditional speech to inspire graduating seniors on how to face the future.

A System-Wide Problem

A recent article in the *Sacramento Bee* revealed the enormous sum of money appropriated by the State Legislature to pay individuals who were subjected to sexual misconduct by State Employees. The article observed that the CSU system paid \$440,500 in the period 2014-17, but named only CSU Fullerton and one other campus. I asked Charlie Faas, SJSU's Vice President for Financial Affairs, if SJSU was involved and his answer was a definite negative. We should rejoice.

SJSU ERFA Officers, 2017-18

President -- Ji-Mei Chang

Vice Pres. -- Elba Maldonado-Colon

Secretary -- Dennis Wilcox

Treasurer -- Abdel El-Shaieb

Members at Large -- Carmen Sigler

Bill McCraw

Jo Bell Whitlatch

Academic Senate -- Peter Buzanski

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Activities Dolores Escobar-Hamilton **Archivist** Celia Bakke

Lonna Smith **CSU-ERFA Reps** Don Keesey

Jackie Snell Bob Wilson

Joan Merdinger

Program Committee: Carmen Sigler, Barbara Conry,

Bill McCraw and Jo Bell Whitlatch

CSU ERFA State Council Delegate-at-Large--David Elliott

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SJSU ERFA Office

MacQuarrie Hall 438D

email: celia.bakke@sjsu.edu • **Telephone:** (408) 924-2478

Visit the SJSU ERFA Website at www.sjsu.edu/emeritusfaculty

Views and opinions expressed in this SJSU ERFA Newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the editor or of San Jose State University.

The Reading Room

By Nils Peterson, English

The reading room at the library was high-ceilinged, tall-windowed, square, and a square of leather-cushioned chairs surrounded the enormous globe meant to show us the way the world was. It turned almost as easily about its expensive spindle as the world. I spun it slowly, exploring place after place. How much blue the sea took.

Sixty years ago and more. Only the blue of the sea has stayed the same. The boy who sat there reading, whispers to me sometimes. He tries to tell me what was. I listen, nod, but cannot tell him what will be.



Celebrating the *Holidays* . . .

Top left: Mengxiong Liu, Joan Merdinger and Susana Liu. Middle left: John and Penny Pollock. Middle right: Provost Andy Feinstein is flanked by Katherine and Sigurd Meldal. Bottom left: Paul Sung, Kai C. Leung, Chris Jochim. Bottom right: Lonna and Michael Smith with Joe Bou-dreau behind.

Photos by Dennis Wilcox



Remembrance of Things Past

Sharing memories with our members . . .

Eleanor Roosevelt's

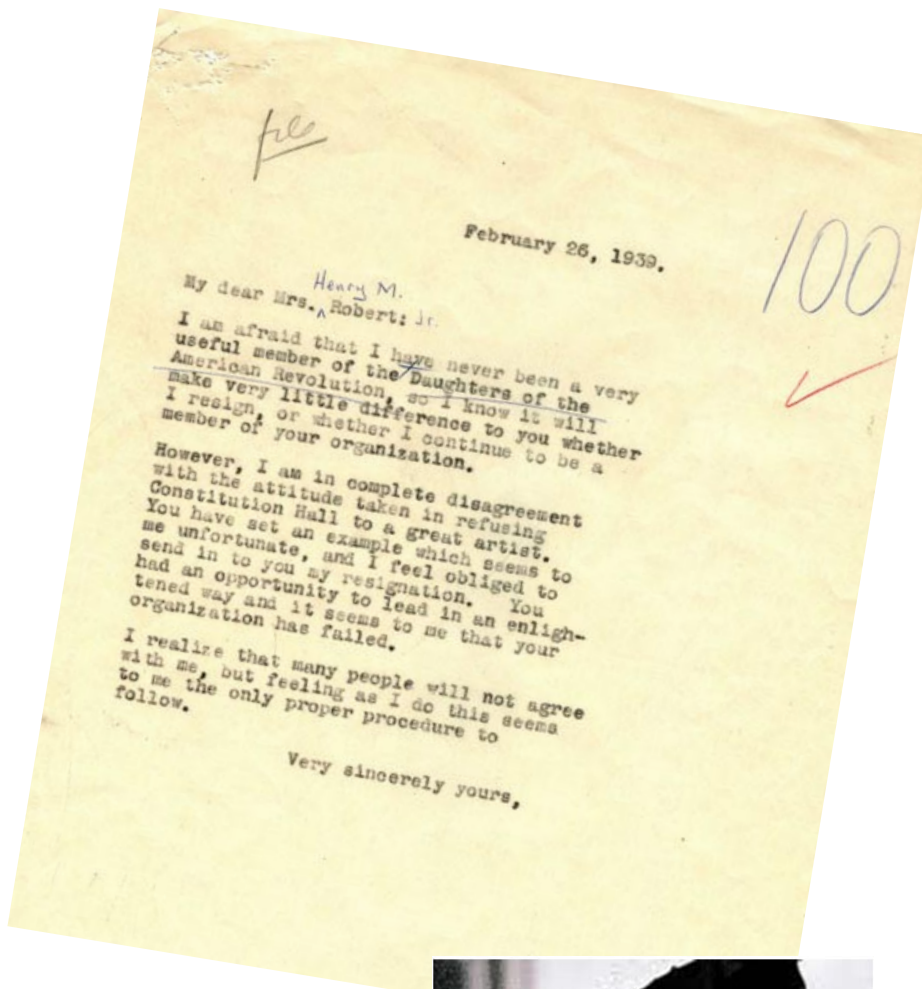
By Arlene N. Okerlund
 (English/Dean, H & A/AVP)

During my travels in autumn 2017, I had the privilege of visiting Hyde Park, home of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. This visit reprised for me the first vacation I ever took in 1949 at age ten. Then, I sat in the back seat of my brother's Chevy coupe, sandwiched between my mother and my older sister, as we traveled from rural Maryland to New York's Hudson Valley.

Mother was on a pilgrimage. She was visiting the home of FDR, the President who had saved our family farm with his New Deal projects. Electricity arrived at our farm, thanks to Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration (WPA). A Frederick County agricultural agent taught my Dad about contour farming and crop rotation, concepts new to small subsistence farmers.

Before I started school, there was even enough money to add indoor plumbing. A man arrived to install a bathroom in the room that had always been my bedroom. "You'll have to sleep in the bathtub tonight," he said, threatening words to a child too young to understand noir humor. Every night thereafter I shared a bed with my sister, who drew a line down the middle, threatening unknown consequences if even a toe crossed that border.

The intervening 68 years had hardly changed Hyde Park. This time, however, I was interested in Eleanor Roosevelt, as much as in her husband's life and achievements. Married in 1905, Eleanor was never happy living in Hyde Park's "big house," which remained the property and domain of Franklin's mother, Sara Delano Roosevelt, until her death in 1941.



Understated Eloquence

Sara's dominance is symbolically visible in the bedroom arrangements on the second floor, a not-very-subtle statement of family dynamics. In a straight line along a central hall, there was a large room for Sara, adjacent to Eleanor's much smaller room that had a door opening into Franklin's room, the size of his mother's. Architecturally, Eleanor was squeezed into a small space between mother-in-law and husband.

To provide Eleanor with room of her own, in 1924 Franklin designed and built for her a cottage about two miles from the main Hyde Park house. Named "Val-Kill" ("Val" for valley and "kill," a Dutch word meaning "creek"), Eleanor worked there with her friends Nancy Cook and Marion Dickerson on projects close to their democratic hearts.

At Val-Kill, unemployed rural folk learned skills that could produce income. Master craftsmen taught farmers cabinetry and pewter work. Women produced woven products that Eleanor helped to market. At Val-Kill Eleanor began to act on her humanistic sentiments, revealing her empathy for all people, regardless of class, culture, or race.

As I wandered through the Presidential Museum, I paid especial attention to the section devoted to Eleanor. There was J. Edgar Hoover's file cabinet with its folders tracking her activities, all suspicious and nefarious to the FBI Director.

What caught my attention, however, was a small, inconspicuous frame hanging on the wall, almost hidden in a corner. The frame held Eleanor's

letter written to the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) when she resigned her membership in 1939.

The incident is infamous. Marion Anderson, an opera singer with a profoundly rich and renowned contralto voice, had tried to rent Constitution Hall for a concert. The DAR, owners of Constitution Hall, refused to rent to Miss Anderson in spite of her international fame and reputation. Miss Anderson's skin was black. As an African-American, she was excluded by the DAR lease, which included a "white artists only" restriction.

As First Lady of the United States and member of the DAR, Eleanor Roosevelt initially worked behind the scenes to change the organization's exclusionary policy. She tried to lead by example. She presented Miss Anderson with the Spingarn Medal at the conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. She invited Miss Anderson to sing at the White House during a visit of the King and Queen of England.

But when no one seemed to protest further, Eleanor Roosevelt determined that she must resign from the DAR. Meanwhile, she helped to arrange an alternative venue for a concert. On Easter Sunday 1939, Miss Anderson stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and sang to all of America. Over 75,000 people attended in person. Millions more listened on the radio.

That story I knew. But I had neither seen nor read the letter written by Eleanor Roosevelt when she resigned from the DAR. It is a letter that should be included in every English composition course as an example of quiet eloquence and effective rhetoric. Its truth has caused the

DAR to adopt a non-discrimination policy that today welcomes members "regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background" who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution.

In today's world where Tweets shout out exaggerated accusations and bully with demeaning insults, it is worth a moment to contemplate and celebrate the power of understated, self-effacing eloquence. Here are Eleanor Roosevelt's words:

February 26, 1939

*My dear Mrs. (Henry M.) Robert: (Jr.)**

I am afraid that I have never been a very useful member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, so I know it will make very little difference to you whether I resign, or whether I continue to be a member of your organization.

However, I am in complete disagreement with the attitude taken in refusing Constitution Hall to a great artist. You have set an example which seems to me unfortunate, and I feel obliged to send in to you my resignation. You had an opportunity to lead in an enlightened way and it seems to me that your organization has failed.

I realize that many people will not agree with me, but feeling as I do this seems to me the only proper procedure to follow.

Very sincerely yours,

*Mrs. Henry M. Robert was President General of the DAR. The parentheses indicate handwritten emendations to the typed letter (see attached image of the letter).

Remembrance of Things Past

Sharing memories with our members . . .

Quebec: Then and Now

By Peter Buzanski (History)

Back in the 1980s, my late wife Christie and I visited Quebec. It was a glorious vacation: the street signs were bilingual, most of the natives spoke English and restaurants had English-language menus. Tourists felt at ease and very much welcomed.

A few months ago, Colleen and I spent about ten days in Quebec. Colleen had not been there before and didn't know what to expect, but I was struck by the change from my earlier visit. The hotels and restaurants still have English-speaking personnel, but on the streets the only English spoken was by tourists. The natives spoke French, the street signs were all in French, as were the restaurant menus (sometimes with inadequate English translations in tiny print beneath). I speak no French and

when we explored beyond the tourist areas and had to ask for directions or other information, I was confronted with an English that was almost unintelligible.

A simple explanation for the present attitudes in Quebec, is, of course, the rise of nationalism. A large percentage of the natives are seeking independence from Canada. And many want more than autonomy: they want to become a separate nation. This is a global phenomenon as evidenced by Brexit and the recent rise of right-wing political parties in England, France, Austria, Germany, and Sweden. It's also reflected in our current administration's America First policy. Historically, the consequences of an increasing nationalism have led to violent upheavals. In World War I it resulted in the destruction of four large

empires: the Austro-Hungarian, German, Russian and the Ottoman. Of the many small states that emerged, almost all were ruled by authoritarian despots. World War II brought the dissolution of the British Empire, resulting in the emergence of India, which then split into Pakistan, only to have Bangladesh split from Pakistan.

Although these developments may seem at the time to bring some benefits, their negative consequences make me regret this historical re-emergence. Obviously, neither I nor the aging membership of SJSU-ERFA is in much of a position to alter the current situation. And it's scant satisfaction to have a knowledge of the past that helps illuminate our present circumstances. But sometimes I can't help thinking, "Isn't it grand to be retired?"

In Memoriam

• **Mary Bowman** (Human Performance '84) passed away after a brief illness on November 6, 2017, at the age of 96. Born and raised in Washington State, Mary earned a BA from Central Washington State College (1943), an MS from Univ. of Oregon (1946) and her Ph.D. from the Univ. of Iowa (1958). She taught at several universities before coming to SJSU in 1962, where she became Department Chair of Physical Education for Women, and later, Chair of the Human Performance Dep't, which, under her guidance, merged the Men's and Women's Physical Education Departments. She wrote a number of pamphlets for

the Oregon State Dep't of Public Instruction on health education for secondary schools and was the editor of a monograph: *Sports Programs for College Women*. In addition, she held administrative positions at all levels of university governance. She became both the Associate- and Interim-Dean of the School of Applied Arts and Sciences; the first woman President of the SJSU Academic Senate; the first woman from SJSU elected to the CSU Academic Senate; and she held the presidencies of the Western Society of Physical Education of College Women, the Association of CSU Professors, and the SJSU Emeritus Faculty

Assoc. When asked about her many accomplishments, she replied that her many "firsts" were "really a product of the times and not necessarily due to any special abilities. I was part of a group effort." Mary leaves behind an extended family spread over several western states and countless friends and colleagues.

• **Viva ("Steve") Deshon** (Post Assoc. Member) was born in Oklahoma in January, 1923, and passed away in Los Gatos on November 13, 2017. "Steve," as she preferred to be called, graduated from the Univ. of Oklahoma with a BA in Home Economics and worked for Braniff

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Chat Room . . .

Special news from and about our members.
Edited by Gene Bernardini

This edition contains news about travels and activities taken from the membership renewal forms. Members are invited to send additional news about themselves to Gene Bernardini at geebarnard@comcast.net or by snail mail at 775 Seawood Way, San Jose, CA 95120

- **Jon Whitmore** (SJSU President, '10) retired a second time in 2015 after serving as CEO of ACT. Inc. He then served as Interim President of Taylor's University in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for seven months. "To be an ex-pat at 72 years old was a (late) life-changing experience. It's never too late to have exciting adventures. Jennifer and I just returned from five weeks in Thailand and Vietnam. On a final note: we visited SJSU a few months ago and had the great fortune to spend some time with Pres. Papazian. Her leadership bodes well for SJSU's fortune."
- **Shannon Bros** (Biological Sciences, '16) is currently working with an environmental group, Organizing for Action, to modify the federal Agricultural Act to further incentivize farmers to

practice sound economically feasible conservation practices.

- **Simone Renaud** (Foreign Languages, '81) will have her 13th book, *En Super Forme Precis de Grammaire Francaise*, co-authored with Jean-Luc de Salvo (SJSU), published by Canadian Scholars, Inc., in May, 2018.
- **Jill Cody** (Recreation Management, '06) has had her recent book, *America Abandoned: The Secret Velvet Coup That Cost Us Our Democracy*, win its second award: "The 2017 Best Book Finalist Award."
- **Angela Rickford** (Education, '14) spent three weeks in Italy last fall at the Rockefeller Bellagio Center on Lake Como, at a conference on empowerment of youth. She and her husband were part of 13 scholars who participated in the

proceedings. Shortly thereafter, her husband John was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences at Harvard Univ.

- **Dennis Wilcox** (Journalism/Mass Comm, '05) is currently working with SJSU professors Diane Guerrezzi and Halima Kazem on a \$250,000 US Embassy grant to provide training for journalists in the Republic of Georgia. The three visited Tbilisi in November to interview applicants for training that was conducted two months later at SJSU. They will be returning to Tbilisi in June for a follow-up evaluation. SJSU received the grant partly because Wilcox was familiar with Georgian media, having spent two months in 2012 as an embassy policy specialist (EPS) doing research on media sustainability in Georgia.

In Memoriam

(Continued from Page 6)

Airlines as a stewardess. There she met and married her first husband, Col. Wayne Winder, and as a military family they lived in many places, both in the US and abroad. In 1965 she met and later married George Deshon, a professor at SJSU who taught in the Organization and Management Dep't. from 1963-83. In 1976, Steve earned her Master's in Textile Design from SJSU, where she taught briefly while engaging in numerous community activities. She was a volunteer at the Foothill Club of Saratoga, the Montalvo Service Group, the Glenna Harris Hand Weavers Guild, Ming Quong and

the SJSU Faculty Wives Club. She and George traveled all over the world after his retirement and maintained a very busy social life with friends and colleagues. She raised a total of five children from her two marriages, who bequeathed her six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

- **Kathleen Sullivan** (Hospitality Management) died of complications from a heart attack on January 22, 2018, at age 65. She was not yet retired from SJSU and her demise was sudden and surprising to friends and colleagues. Kathleen was revered as a knowledgeable Hospitality Management professor at SJSU for nearly 30 years. She was eager

to mentor and help countless students to reach their full potential by guiding them every step of the way. At whatever hotel or restaurant she found herself, she could almost always say "Oh, I know the manager there; he (or she) is a friend of mine." Kathleen's influence extended widely, including overseas, where she had spent time initiating hospitality programs in Dubai and Vietnam. She leaves behind a devoted son, her former spouse, a sister, nieces, nephews, and many close friends and colleagues.

Newsletter of the Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association
SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY
One Washington Square
San Jose, CA 95192-0210

Return Service Requested

Golden Apples, Anyone?

By Nancie Fimbel
(Marketing & Decision Sci)

For a period of time, retiring faculty who qualified for emeritus status were given a glass golden apple when they left. The Provost's Office has given ERFA the last 25 or so of them that it had on hand. We're offering them on a first-come, first-served basis to any of our members who didn't receive one at the time they retired. We plan to distribute them to those who request them at our Spring Luncheon at the Villages in May. To reserve an apple, please email Nancie Fimbel at fimbeln@gmail.com or call her at 650-485-0306. They are too heavy to be mailed; if you can't attend the luncheon, you can make arrangements with another ERFA member to pick up your apple.

