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The SJSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty
Association

Winter 1-1-2009

SJSU ERFA News, Winter 2009

San Jose State University, Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

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EFA News

- *Vienna to Berkeley: Opera from a radio... a family recollection on page four.*
- *Remembering the comfort of music during national tragedy on page five.*

A Newsletter of the San Jose State University Emeritus Faculty Association

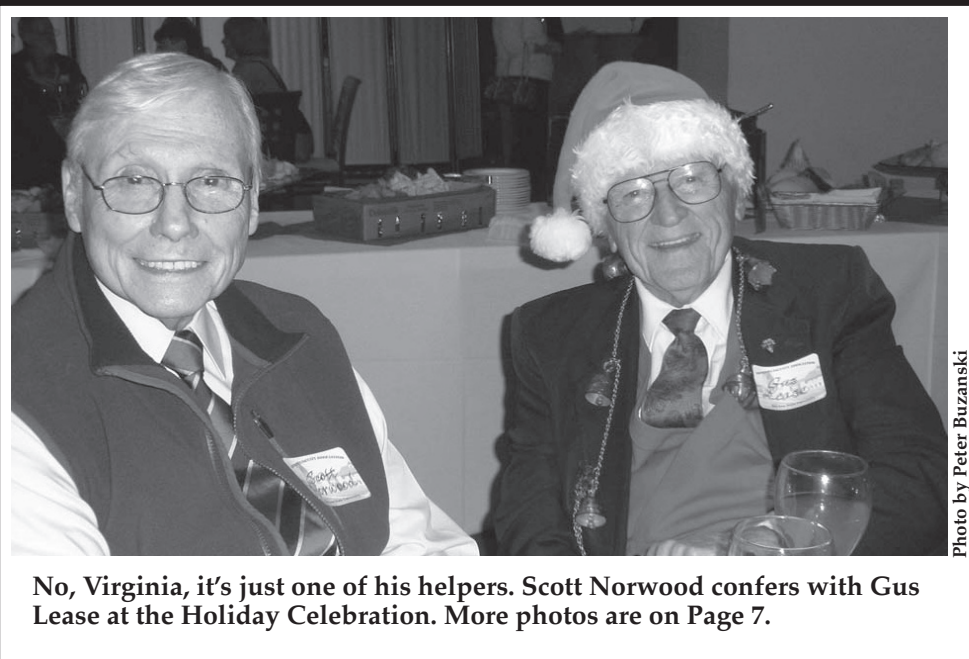


Photo by Peter Buzanski

No, Virginia, it's just one of his helpers. Scott Norwood confers with Gus Lease at the Holiday Celebration. More photos are on Page 7.



**Friday,
April 3, 2009**

**Spring Excursion
A Visit to California
Academy of Sciences
in Golden Gate Park.
(See enclosed flyer)**

**Friday,
May 8, 2009**

**Spring Luncheon at
the Villages. Speaker:
SJSU President, Jon
Whitmore.**

EFA President's Message

Taking a Tour Through the Academy

**By Don Keeseey
(English)**

When the new California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park opened last year to large crowds and loud acclaim, the E.F.A. Executive Board agreed it would make an ideal destination for our spring excursion. We have now scheduled a tour for April 3. Having recently had the chance to make my first visit, I'm convinced the Board made a good choice. But given the riches of the Academy, all you can do on a first visit is try to take in the highlights.

The first of these is the building itself, which has been praised for its architecture. As you approach, the building offers a low and

unremarkable profile, but when you enter, you are struck by the large open spaces and the vast spheres of the Planetarium and the Rainforest. But to really see the design innovations of architect Renzo Piano, you need to explore further. Start by going up to the "living roof" (there is an elevator) which features 2.5 acres of native plants and has a large viewing platform with explanatory signs (and some fine views of the park's grand Music Concourse). Then make your way back to the main level and the "Building Green" display where several environmentally friendly features of the building are illustrated. The many "green" elements range

from water- and energy-saving devices in the restrooms to blue-jeans insulation in the walls. You will be impressed by the architect's achievement in creating a container that so fully embodies the message of its contents: we must learn to live more lightly on this earth.

This message is repeated in direct and subtle ways everywhere. The Rainforest, for example, is a huge, transparent biosphere that you view from several levels and where you learn the crucial role that rainforests play in preserving the earth's atmosphere. Similarly, the "world's largest all-digital planetarium," an IMax-like theatre, is currently showing a 35-minute

(Continued on page two)

President's Message

A Tour Through the Academy

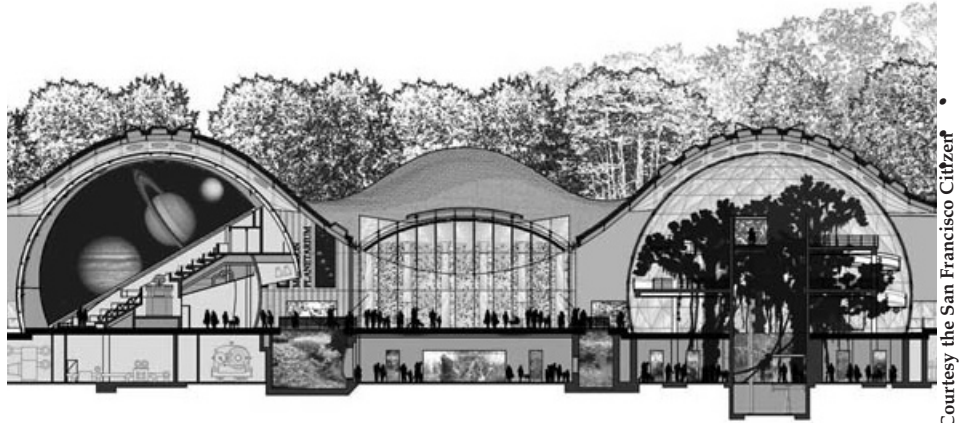
(Continued from page one)
film entitled "Our Fragile Planet." The film features stunning shots from space and up-to-the minute astronomical discoveries, but it returns often to the message that our lonely planet is the only one we're likely to have, so we had better take care of it. Continuing the same theme, the African Hall dioramas feature life-size and life-like replicas of endangered wildlife. And the message is literally brought home in the main-floor display "Altered State: Climate Change in California."

Because most of our planet is covered with water, the entire lower level of the Academy is devoted to aquatic plants and creatures. Viewers who remember the old Steinhart aquarium will be doubly impressed by the new version. More than a hundred tanks holding some 38,000 fish and reptiles fill

the lower level, with three of the largest tanks devoted to swamp lands, a colorful Philippine coral reef, and the northern California coast. Displays of Madagascar and

gardens with native plants and a large aviary. In all, there's more than you can explore thoroughly in a single visit.

A few practical tips:



Courtesy the San Francisco Citizen

A cut-away view of the Academy

the Galapagos Islands illustrate the theory of evolution, and just beyond the side doors are the Academy

•Getting Around As you enter the main hall, stop by the Guest Services desk to pick up a visitor's map and check the times of the planetarium shows. At the desk you can also rent an "audio guide." There are two versions, one featuring the museum's "Highlights," the other explaining the building's "Green" design elements. These each rent for \$7, or you can rent them as a combined tour for \$12.

•Lunch There are several dining options. The Moss Room is a full-service restaurant with entrees priced from \$17 to \$20. Reservations may be made in person on the day of use but the restaurant is small, so if you plan to eat there, head to The Moss Room as soon as you arrive to make your reservations. The Academy Café is really a small "food court" which provides sandwiches, fish-and-chips, bakery items, etc. It has a large seating area. In addition, there are snack carts and many tables in the big glass-enclosed central hall and on the outdoor

(Continued on page three)

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- Secretary** -- Lonna Smith
- Treasurer** -- Ted Norton
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Views and opinions expressed in this EFA Newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the editor or of San Jose State University.

Impaction: focus of year-end Senate meeting

By Peter Buzanski

Although Senators expected the major focus of the last senate meeting of 2008 to be the discussion of the 2008-2009 budget report, they were duly impressed by the spotlight shone on the subject of impaction. In mid-November, the California legislature's failure to adopt a budget, coupled with the governor's demand to require paybacks of funds already appropriated for 2007-08, forced Chancellor Charles Reed to declare a system-wide CSU impaction.

This meant that all presidents could declare their universities impacted, and President Jon Whitmore so declared SJSU on December 8. Associate Vice President Veril Phillips explained to the Senate the meaning of impaction for our campus. He began by showing that in the 2006-07 academic year SJSU's enrollment exceeded its budgeted appropriation by only 0.7%. In 2007-08 the over-enrollment amounted to 6.6%. Because academic year 2008-09 is only half over, final enrollment figures have to be based on fall enrollments and anticipated spring applications, but over-enrollment is estimated to be between 8.9% and 14.5%. This surge of students, as well as the anticipation that the CSU budget for

2009-10 will probably be no higher than the one for 2007, requires careful enrollment management, hence, the declaration of impaction.

This policy means that for fall, 2009, all eligible first-time California freshmen who applied prior to November 20, 2008 will be admitted. Thereafter, only those from SJSU's local area (Santa Clara County) who applied prior to the deadline of November 30 will be admitted. Lower division transfer students who have not completed their general education requirements in the community colleges will not be admitted, and no post-baccalaureate undergraduate students will be admitted. While in past years the deadline was often breached, impaction means that this deadline will be strictly observed, or, as the senate was told, "say 'no' with a smile." For the spring 2010 semester, all applicants during the month of August 2009 will be admitted on a space available basis, with priority for Santa Clara County students

There are additional factors in the university's approach for the next academic year's enrollment. It may be possible to restrict or refuse registration of students who exceed the number of units needed for their major by "more than a prescribed amount." It may

also be possible to "declare a few major programs impacted under an expedited review and authorization process." Disqualified students who have made up their disqualification by a program of approved studies may not be admitted until the next available term. The various provisos of impaction will be dealt with by an enrollment advisory group consisting of university enrollment planners, faculty members, a student, and community members, and they will consult with school superintendents, community college chancellors, and others. Finally, it should be noted that graduate enrollment is not affected by the impaction policy.

The budget discussion following the impaction lecture was anti climactic. The proposed general fund appropriation, prior to the governor's demand(s) for moneys returned, is \$167.2 million for 2008-09, augmented by student fees of \$89.8 million for a total of \$257.1 million. The general fund appropriation for Intercollegiate Athletics is \$6.2 million, which is 2.4% of the general fund, close to what the senate has sought to accomplish ever since the early 1990s. Almost no questions were asked about the budget this year.

Before adjourning, the Senate passed a number of measures, the most important of which is a new Sabbatical Leave Policy, made necessary because the Collective Bargaining Agreement signed between the California Faculty Association and the Chancellor's Office invalidated the existing SJSU policy. The major difference between the old and new policy is that henceforth a new university-level committee shall examine all the sabbatical leave proposals that have been reviewed at lower levels and recommended for funding; this university committee shall evaluate and place them in rank order, with the final decision to be made by the president.

President's Message

An Academy Tour . . .

(Continued from page two)

patio. The various serving stations are likely to be busiest at the noon hour, so plan your lunch accordingly.

• **The Planetarium** It shows the same film every hour on the half hour. There is no charge for the film, but you need to pick up a pass at the Planetarium entrance for the next available show. On the weekday I visited, by 11am the next available show was 1:30 pm.

So if you want to see the film, get your pass soon after you enter the building.

Finally, the Academy has an excellent website: www.calacademy.org. I recommend you check it out before your visit to get oriented, and again after your visit, to see what you missed.

See the enclosed flyer for details of the EFA excursion, and a reservation form.

REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST

Sharing memories with our members . . .

*On the love of operas . . .***By Peter Buzanski (History)**

My parents and I immigrated to the United States and arrived in Berkeley, California, on Washington's Birthday, 1940. As soon as my parents had saved up enough money to buy a radio, they did so, just in time for the beginning of the 1940-41 season of the Saturday afternoon radio broadcasts from the Metropolitan Opera. I love operas, and those Saturday broadcasts were something special. But it might not have been so, had it not been for the intervention of my father.

He was born in Tsarist Russia and was twenty years old when Russia joined the Allied Powers in 1914. Dad's desire to fight in the Tsar's army, known for its anti-semitic attitudes, was entirely lacking. So, finding himself a visitor in Poland at the outbreak of war in 1914, it was not difficult for him to find Austro-Hungarian troops to accommodate him with the status of prisoner of war. Once the war ended, he had no desire to associate himself with the Bolsheviks in Russia, so he ended up in Vienna, then the capital of the newly established Austrian Republic. There he met my mother, and there I was born. In 1938, after the *Anschluss*, when Austria was annexed by Hitler's Nazi troops, my family tried to leave, but lacked legal documents until late in 1939. My parents arrived in New York in November, 1939, and there they waited until my arrival in late January, 1940, from Sweden where I had been sent the previous year. Once my health was restored, we all settled in Berkeley, where my father found employment in a very poor-paying job. But some time after Pearl Harbor, he found employment in Henry Kaiser's

Richmond shipyard, at wages more than three times as much as the previous job.

Shortly after our entry into World War II, my mother read a newspaper announcement stating that enemy aliens—Germans and Italians—had to surrender their radios and cameras to the local police authorities. Devoted to obeying laws, my mother took my Kodak box brownie, as well as the family radio to the nearby police station. After all, Austria had been annexed to Germany and that made her, she asserted, an enemy alien. But legally, the family's status in Austria had been stateless, because Austrian citizenship was available only to foreigners who paid large sums of money, which my parents lacked. However, the United States did not recognize the status of being stateless, and there were also immigration quotas with long waiting lists. Fortunately, my parents were able to legally enter the United States because, according to American laws, my father was a Russian and since Stalin's Soviet Union allowed no one to leave, the Russian quota was virtually unused.

On the day when my mother removed the radio and camera, my father came home after work, expecting to listen to the news. "Where is the radio?" he asked. My mother explained that enemy aliens had to surrender all radios and cameras. "Nonsense," replied my



father. The very next day he went to the police station, informed the authorities that he was a Russian, now an American ally fighting the common enemy, and he wanted his radio and camera returned. In no time at all, both were restored.

As a result, I was able to listen to Milton Cross explaining the plots of each Saturday's broadcast. And so it went over the years. When Cross died at an advanced age, he was replaced by Peter Allen, and when Allen retired, the third voice chosen for the Metropolitan broadcasts belongs to a female, Margaret Juntwait. And now, I can even attend the live Saturday broadcasts of the Metropolitan Opera via High Definition transmission in a local cinema. I am grateful to my father for having had the foresight to restore the radio that made my opera listening possible, as well as allowing me to hear classical music on Berkeley's radio station KRE. Ironically, my father didn't care for operas. He was only interested in listening to the news. Fate works in wonderful ways.

REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST

Sharing memories with our members . . .

On Brahms, Kennedy, and music . . .

By Nils Peterson (English)

I went to graduate school at Rutgers in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Rutgers had a fine University Chorus that sang one concert a year with a New York Orchestra at Carnegie Hall and one concert a year with the Philadelphia Orchestra. Though my scholarly friends scoffed at such a waste of time, I had the chance to sing with some of the great conductors, Eric Leinsdorff, for instance, and, of course, Eugene Ormandy.

My last semester in New Jersey, we sang the Brahms Requiem with the Philadelphia Orchestra. It was a transcendent thrill. I had loved the piece as a listener, but now I had the chance to go deeply inside it as a singer (and spend a long weekend in Philadelphia to boot). Not long after our last performance, I got married and set out across country for California and my first full-time teaching job at San Jose State, not yet a university. The year was 1963.

I arrived in San Jose dead broke. My wife and I had money for one night in a hotel (all night long, the same noisy cars circled round and round) and the next day we had to find a place to rent or we would have had to use part of our down-payment rent money. Incredibly, we found a cottage on a rich man's estate overlooking Alum Rock Park. We were allowed to use the swimming pool in the yard. The one in his living room was for his family alone. We had also gotten our first credit card, a Bank America one with a \$200 limit. (Well, my pay was \$6600 a year.) We maxed it out on a hi-fi set.

I found that I enjoyed teaching even though I had three sections of composition. My fourth class was a survey of English Literature.

Originally, I was scheduled to have four comp classes, but the new head of the department took pity on me and split one of a senior professor's classes. In gratitude, I think I tried to squeeze a graduate seminar into each class session. Still, the students seemed to put up with it and with me.

One November morning, bright and shiny like the November morning I'm typing this in, I walked

several days, we sprawled in chairs in his bedroom where the big set was, watching with tear-filled eyes a country trying to cope.

On the second or third day of grieving, I heard familiar music, and looked up at the set. There was Ormandy, the orchestra, and my old choir. They were singing the Requiem. They had been gathered together quickly for a memorial service. I sat there weeping as I watched the faces of my old friends, also tear-stained, singing the music I knew so well and which had meant so much to me. I desperately wished to be with them and part of them, but I sang along as well as I could and my weepy baritone comforted me in as far as it was possible to be comforted. The music asked "Tod, wo ist dein Stachel?" "Death, where is thy sting?" I knew well enough the answer to that, but it also sang, "Und Du hast alle Dinge erschaffen," "And You have created all things," and the sounds made me think that way, feel that way, rather, and move towards some sense of resolution and mystery. Eliot said something like "in the presence of a great religious poem, you know what it is like to believe in that religion." It is even more true of music.

As it turned out, we needed the comfort of great music more than once over the next years, Martin Luther King, Robert Kennedy, all those who died in Vietnam, and yes, forty years later, Iraq and Afghanistan. As I type this, I find myself wondering if the music of the spheres is a requiem, not a joyful song of praise. But maybe they are the same, maybe they are the same.

And truthfully, today, above dark chords, I hear a bright song of possibility and praise.



out of my English Lit class to the news that President Kennedy had been shot. It wasn't clear yet whether it was fatal. There were desperate hopes that it wasn't, but, alas. . . , and the lamentations of a nation began, the weeping of a nation that could not believe or comprehend the fate it had been asked to live through.

Of course my wife and I had no television set so we couldn't visually share the grief of the nation. We'd blown the bucks on the radio. But our landlord invited us down to look at the news with him and his family, and for hours over a period of

Chat Room

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 gebernard@comcast.net or by snail mail at 775 Seawood Way, San Jose CA 95120.

Special News from and about our members.

Edited by Gene Bernardini

• **Gareth Williams** (Physics, '03) still sings with the Santa Clara Men's Chorus, which gives four concerts a year. The Director, Ilan Glasman, who studied under Charlene Archibeque and is now Director of Choral Music at DeAnza College, is looking for more singers. Anyone interested in joining, please contact Gareth at garethann@comcast.net.

• **Rachel Smart**, widow of James Smart (Math/Computer Science, '94), writes, "Still here—living in our home. Enjoy traveling, reading, visiting and having guests."

• **Dave McNeil** (History, '05) continues to enjoy traveling—to New York and Maine in July, and to his Italian pied-a-terre in March, and again in late summer. Most recently he returned from five "Silk Road" countries in Central Asia, where "independence after the fall of the Soviet Union appears to be a rather mixed bag."

• **Charlene Archibeque** (Music, '05) is serving in her second year as President of the Silicon Valley League of the San Francisco Symphony. She also continues to conduct: on June 22, '08, she directed a 225 voice choir for the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church at the Civic Auditorium.

• **Mary Lou Peterson**, widow of John Barr (Counselor Education, '79), writes, "My two daughters and I enjoyed a wonderful Holland-America cruise from San Diego to the Hawaiian Islands and back, last March."

• **Wanna Pitts** (Biological Sciences, '92) traveled with her husband Jerry and their daughter Patsy to Ireland for a "wonderful two weeks" in June, '08. They visited Dublin, Waterford, Drogheda, Belfast, Bushmills, Donegal, Connemara and Clonmacnois. "What a lovely, friendly, GREEN

place!"

• **Ted Norton** (Political Science, '93) enjoyed a pleasant Mediterranean cruise last year to Malta, Sicily, Corsica, Sardinia and the Balearics.

• **Ruth Yaffe** (Chemistry, '90) is keeping busy at home with opera, music theatre, and caring for her Great Danes. She also traveled extensively in 2008: in February, Copper Canyon, Mexico; in June, Victoria, BC and Ashland, OR; in July, Scotland; in August, Long Beach, CA; and in December, Chile, Antarctica and Argentina.

• **Benton White** (Religious Studies, '92), with his wife Mary Lou, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by taking their children and grandchildren to Hawaii in July,

'08. They also planned some Rhine River cruises which would allow them to visit cities along the way without having to pack and unpack each day.

• **Ellen Weaver** (Biology, 91) is still serving on the Board of Directors of the Sempervirens Fund, "saving redwoods in the Santa Cruz mountains." She is also a Councillor for the Save-the-Redwoods League, which is concerned with conserving redwoods everywhere. "Those trees store carbon!"

• **Stanley Benz** (Dean of Students, '77) volunteers his time at the Monterey Bay Aquarium and at the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula.

In Memoriam

• **Norma Spalding** (Special Education, '92) died peacefully at home on December 17, '08, at the age of 87. Norma was born and educated in California, receiving her BA Degree from UC Berkeley in 1942. After raising five children, she returned to school, taking an MA from San Jose State in '62, a Secondary Credential from Stanford in '63, and an Ed.D from UC Berkeley in '72. She taught at SJSU from 1962-92, while simultaneously teaching night classes at SJ City College from '67 to '95. In the Special Education Dep't. at SJSU, she established the Reading Laboratory for students who needed remedial assistance. She also helped develop the Quick Neurological Screening Test (QNST) to diagnose learning disabilities in young children. The test, designed for teachers, nurses and learning specialists, was translated into Spanish, French and Chinese and was used worldwide. In addition, she established a special READS program for young men released from the California Youth

Authority who lacked the necessary literacy skills to qualify for jobs. To finance it, she obtained funds from government and private sources and used students from the campus Learning Disability Specialist Program to serve as tutors and interns. After retiring, Norma pursued her many interests, which ranged from reading, gardening and traveling, to ballet, theater and opera. She sat through Wagner's entire Ring cycle four times. She was President of the Emeritus Faculty Organization in 1996 and remained on the Executive Board up until last year. EFA Board members regularly met at her house to fold and mail newsletters, where she served coffee and sweets with an omnipresent smile. She leaves behind five children, twelve grandchildren and twenty-one great grandchildren, all of whose graduations and special events she made every effort to attend. She will be missed by all.

• **Angelo Centanni** (Division of Technology) passed away on
(Continued on page seven)

In Memoriam...

(Continued from page six)

December 28, '08, at the age of 96. Angelo didn't quite make it to 100 years, despite the promise of his last name, but he came close. A lifelong student of architecture and design, Angelo was appointed Associate Executive Vice President for Facilities during the campus building boom of the 1960s and contributed his knowledge and skill to the planning of many new classroom buildings. He taught for many years in the Dep't of Industrial Studies, teaching classes in materials, blueprints and, with Don Betando, packaging. After his retirement he continued to design home remodelings and supervised their construction. A genial, unassuming man, he loved to cook for family and friends, enjoyed baking bread, and even made homemade sausages. He leaves behind a wife, two daughters and a grandchild.

•**Gary Albright** (Philosophy) died on December 17, '08 after a short bout with cancer. Born in Rochester, New York in 1936, he was 72 years old. Gary graduated from Dartmouth with a BA in 1958, and took his PhD at Columbia University in 1962. After teaching at Hunter College for a year, he came to SJSU in 1964. He taught in the Philosophy Department and in the Humanities Honors Program. Gary was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hiking, backpacking and skiing with his family. He also loved the opera, ballet and theater. With his wife Priscilla, who taught Art History at SJSU, he travelled extensively, especially after his retirement, to places like Peru and Pakistan, in addition to Europe. He is survived by his wife and two children, Michele and Mark.

•**Wilfred (Fred) Iltis** (Biology, '88) died on December 11, '08. His obituary will follow in the next newsletter. A memorial will be held from 12 to 4 p.m., January 31, at 1040 Lick Avenue, San Jose.



SJSU President Jon Whitmore
with EFA President Don Keeseey.

Holiday Celebration Memories

Photos by Peter Buzanski



Mary Lou White.

Mabel Miyasaki and Tom Layton.



June McCann Makes Newsweek

By Bill Gustafson (Human Performance)

In the December 15, '08 issue of Newsweek, an article titled "Never Say Die" described the life styles of senior citizens who were living life to the fullest. EFA charter member June McCann (Physical Education, '76) was one of those who was featured prominently, not only with a brief description of her active life but also with a color photograph of her on a bocce court at the Villages, where she lived until moving recently to the Vintage retirement complex. Lori Lindquist, Mary Bowman and I can attest to June's vitality in our monthly card games. These games have been going on for more years than we would like to acknowledge, though Mary and I are relatively recent additions to the competition.

June's mind is as quick and agile as ever, even if the advancing years have caused her to abandon tennis and golf. She can total five dice in Yahtzee with the best of us and more than holds her own in other big-level card games such as "plump," Uno, and golf. She continues to attend symphonies regularly with Mary and retains her keen interest in various sports telecasts, especially any involving women's competitions and those of Tiger Woods. At 97, she exemplifies the benefits of exercise—both in mind and body. And, of course, good genes always help.



June McCann

EFA News

Newsletter of the Emeritus Faculty Association
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