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SJSU ERFA News, Winter 2010

San Jose State University, Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

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EFA News

A Newsletter of the San Jose State University Emeritus Faculty Association

REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST

Can you drink and type at the same time? The reminiscences on page four and five might help you figure it out.



Obviously in a festive mood at the Holiday Celebration are Cindy Margolin, Marian Yoder, Arlene Okerlund. More photos on page three.

Long Term Care

Going UP!

EFA members who subscribe to CalPERS Long Term Care should have received notice by now that their premiums will be taking a dramatic turn upward this year. The increases are necessary to deal with a 33% deficit in the Program, the result of recent declining investments and greater-than-expected usage. The Long Term Care Program (LTCP) is a unique CalPERS program in that it is voluntary and funded entirely through employee premium payments. (The regular CalPERS Retirement System is in no way affected by LTC.) To stabilize the LTCP, sharp increases have been announced, depending upon the coverage selected and the year the policy went into effect. All policies issued prior to 2005 with both lifetime benefits and inflation coverage will be increased by 22% in mid-year, 2010, with an additional 5% increase scheduled for July of 2011. Those with only one or the other of these two coverages will be increased solely by this year's 22%. Any policy issued prior to 2005 with only non-lifetime benefits, as well as all policies issued after 2005, will be increased by 15%. The LTCP has promised to provide members with various options to help mitigate or perhaps eliminate the premium increase by modifying their plans. All enrollees will be sent a customized letter by this March, 2010, detailing the options available, giving them ample time

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University, Academic Senate News

By Peter Buzanski

Since the last Newsletter report, one new problem has arisen in addition to the Chancellor's Office (CHO) requirement for a reduction of students for Spring and Fall semesters 2010. This new problem stems from a recent CHO policy that all twenty-three campuses of the CSU must increase the graduation rates of all students by 2016. This is not something

Chancellor Reed dreamed up to torture the various campuses. The origin of the policy, called the CSU Graduation Initiative, is "part of a nationwide Access to Success project devised by the National Association of System Heads," an organization of fifty-two colleges and university systems of public higher education, accounting for over 70% of all undergraduate students in the

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Calendar of events



**Friday,
April 23**

**Spring Excursion:
DeYoung Museum,
"Bouquets to Art."**

See enclosed flyer for information on the Spring Excursion

**Friday,
May 7**

**Spring Luncheon
at the Villages**

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University and Academic Senate News

(Continued from page one)

U.S. By adopting this policy, the CSU “is among twenty-four public higher education systems that have pledged to cut the college-going and graduation gaps for low income and minority students in half by 2016.” The specific goals within the CSU system is “to raise the six year graduation rates of CSU students to the top quartile of national averages on each campus” and to “cut in half the existing achievement gap between underrepresented minority CSU students (URMs) and non-underrepresented minority CSU students (non-URMs).”

Given that the averages required to achieve the goals differ from one CSU campus to the next, the CHO presented to each campus the percentage of improvement required for both for URMs and

non-URMs. San José State is in neither the best nor worst position as to required improvement. The California Maritime Academy, one of the CSU’s twenty-three members, has the most difficult achievement goals, namely a 16% improvement in non-URMs, and a 20% improvement of URMs; the least improvement is probably needed by CSU/San Bernardino which needs to improve its non-URMs by 5% and its URMs by 7%. SJSU is required to have an 8% improvement rate of non-URMs and a 12% rate for URMs.

No EFA member should conclude that this is just a pious goal announced by the Chancellor’s office that can be ignored or treated in a haphazard manner. When announced, the requirement was also accompanied by timelines and specific steps that must be

undertaken at prescribed times. Beginning in February 2010, each campus must present monthly progress reports as to what the campus is doing to bring about the desired improvements. Specifically, these must be submitted on the last Friday of each month. At that time the CHO will post online the progress reports of each campus, which is then followed, between March and June, by teams from the CHO visiting all campuses to review what is being done. There will be quarterly updates at Executive Committee meetings and at Academic Council meetings, and the CHO will give two updates every year to the Board of Trustees. Needless to say, this new requirement, which may be called an unfunded mandate, is imposed without any new funding to the campuses. Various creative solutions have been proposed by the CHO, but none are funded. It is equally needless to state that the SJSU Academic Senate will be involved with this proposal while simultaneously struggling to cope with the reduced budget. One immediate area that requires discussion is how to reduce the excessive number of departments, majors and programs currently offered by SJSU, currently about 150. The average number in the CSU system is about 70. Will we be able to bring down this number? And will SJSU be able to reduce the number of units required for General Education courses? SJSU requires more GE units than many of the CSU members, and this is another problem the Academic Senate will attempt to tackle in the immediate future. No one will be able to accuse the Senate of not having enough to accomplish in the year 2010.

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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.

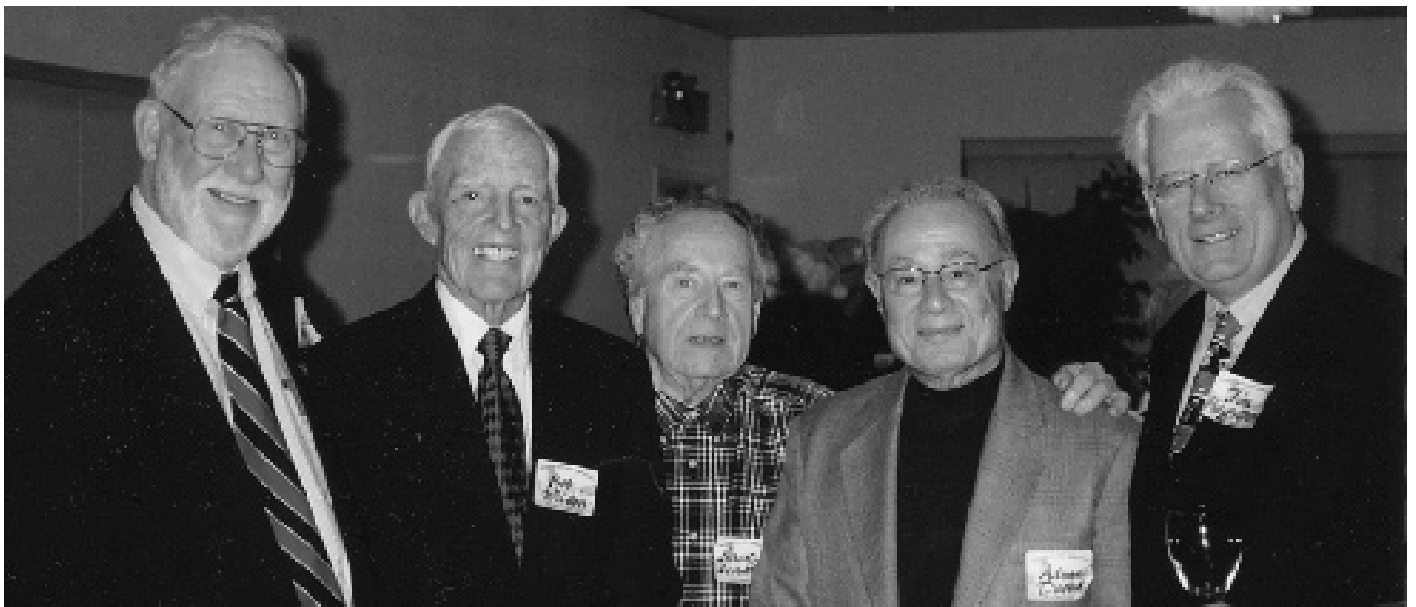




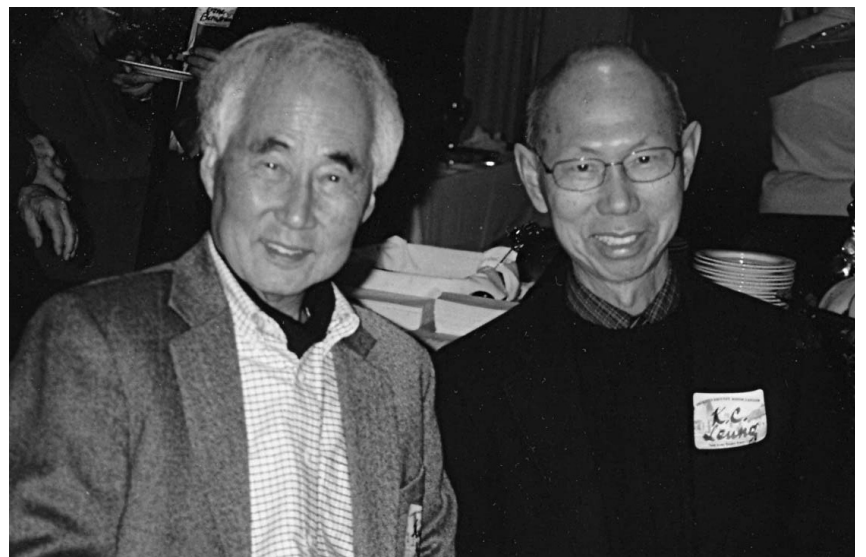
Holiday Cheer

At left, Sid and Sheila Tiedt, offer a cheerful toast at EFA's Holiday Celebration.

Below, Wayne Savage, Bob Wilson, Sebastian Cassarino, Adnan Daoud and Tim Wegstrom enjoy the annual party.



Tom Layton and Mabel Miyasaki



Kichung Kim and K.C. Leung

REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST

Sharing memories with our members . . .

*My brief career as a temperance advocate***By Verle Waters Clark**

I was 11 years old and my sister Ellen nine when we became members of the Loyal Temperance Legion. The LTL was (and is?) the juvenile branch of the Women's Christian Temperance Union--the WCTU. The idea of organizing an LTL in our small farm community came from women in the Fundamentalist Free Methodist Church in Henriette, MN. That was Grandma East's church, and for a few years she succeeded in getting Ellen and me to go with her to Sunday school and Wednesday night "testimonials." I was eager to join the LTL—not because I believed alcohol was evil, but because of the appeal of a new activity in the predictable routines of our farm childhood.

The membership was small. Lorraine and Kenny Bacon were there. And the Lawrence boy; I think Robert was his name. Not the Evenson kids; they didn't go to any church. The Le Febvre girls were Catholic, and besides, their parents were very French and would surely not have been in favor of temperance.

In joining this new club we had to stand, raise our right hand, and take a pledge. just, I thought, like being an important person in a swearing-in ceremony. I thought of the pledge as a promise and took it very seriously. Reading the words now I have to acknowledge there is no part of this pledge that I have not cheerfully violated.

*I promise, God helping me,
Never to buy, drink, sell or give
Alcoholic liquor while I live.
From all tobacco I'll abstain
And never take God's name in vain.*

We met at the home of our club sponsors, the Fessenden sisters.

They were short, stout spinsters in cotton print dresses in a small house on a small farm up a long driveway. There was a brother who did the outdoor farm work, but no male Fessendens ever appeared as we sat primly in the small prim parlor. We sang inspirational songs:

*The Demon of Rum is about in the land,
His victims are falling on every hand,
The wise and the simple, the brave and the fair,
No station too high for his vengeance to spare.
O women, the sorrow and pain is with you,
And so be the joy and the victory, too;
With this for your motto, and succor divine,
The lips that touch liquor shall never touch mine.*

And—another:
*Father, dear Father, come home with me now.
The clock in the steeple strikes one.
You said you were coming right home from the shop
As soon as your day's work was done.
The fire's gone out, the house is all dark,
And Mother's been waiting since tea
With poor little Benny so sick in her arms
And no one to help her but me.*

CHORUS:
*"Come home, come home, come home.
Please Father, dear Father, come home."*

One more for which I remember only the first 2 lines, and Google hasn't been able to find a copy of it for me (probably just as well)...

"Whoever heard of a poor old

horse

That had to be carried home..."

We carried little blue cards just smaller than a business card, imprinted with a pledge never to let liquor touch the lips—perhaps it was the same pledge we ourselves took as LTL initiates, but these cards were for members to give to others. We were to carry the cards with us at all times, asking everyone we encountered to Sign The Pledge. A blank line below the printed pledge intended a signature in our presence, and then our "convert" was to keep the card, carrying it always.

My temperance advocacy led to an exchange with my father that he took great pleasure in reminding me of in my adult years, often as we sat together having a drink before dinner. Counties in Minnesota at the time of my LTL affiliation, the mid-1930s, placed on the ballot the opportunity for citizens to vote whether they wanted liquor to be sold in the county or not. "Wet" or "Dry" was shorthand for the choices. Our county, Kanabec County, had such an initiative on the ballot. I begged my father to vote Dry. I could see by his facial expression that he was amused, which prompted me to argue with increased emotion and intensity, which increased his amusement. "If you and I were stranded on a desert island," he posited, "and there were only two things to drink, beer and water, which would you choose?"

Decisively and righteously I said "Water!" "Well," he said, "I would drink beer, and I would live longer than you would." Still feeling perfectly righteous, I said, "But I'd be healthier when I died,"

My career as a temperance
(Continued on page five)

REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST

Sharing memories with our members . . .

“Serving Time” in Parochial School

By Jim Asher (Psychology)

I have often said that everything I know, I learned in the first grade when a beautiful nun, Sister Alice Terese, taught me to read *Dick and Jane*, that memorable story of going with father on a snow picnic in the family’s woody station wagon. The rest I learned later in the United States Infantry working with first sergeants who made “tough guy” James Cagney look like “Little Red Riding Hood.”

In elementary school, run by the nuns, the most important feature was “discipline.” For example, in the second grade I forgot my homework, so I approached Sister Marie Joyce saying, “I’m sorry Sister, but I don’t have my homework today. I am truly sorry!” I thought by making a clean confession before the offense was discovered, I would be absolved of any penalty and even get some gold stars in her grade book for being a shining example of honesty. Instead she said, “Well, your homework assignment was not due until tomorrow. But, since you thought it was due today, you must take the punishment.”

Eight years with the nuns was a Sunday School picnic compared with the all-boys high school run by priests. The students were carefully screened to admit only boys who were “really good students” and therefore worthy of preparation for college. But the high school operated like a reformatory for middle class boys who had committed no crime. The selling feature was again “discipline,” but with a capital “D.” Apparently, the priests had permission to administer corporal

punishment at any time and for any reason. It seems to me that this “brass-knuckle” discipline was unnecessary because the students were especially selected for being compliant, listening carefully to directions, and diligently doing two or three hours of homework every night.

As a result, I can remember going to school each day with a feeling of impending doom. I concluded that my best chance for survival was to be invisible



by never raising my hand to ask a question or volunteering an answer. If one objected to anything, the immediate response was, “If you don’t like it, we can always transfer you to the public school.” Oh, my God, No! My caricature of the public school was anarchy in a place populated with strange people who were probably atheists and maybe some gypsies. I pictured “toughs” who would roam the halls and “strong-arm” you for your lunch money. So we accepted our fate.

Interestingly, I think the school assumed that each of us would someday have a private secretary. I say that because one of the few choices we were given was trigonometry or typing. When I

selected “typing,” my “counselor” made a face and said, “You don’t want typing! You need trigonometry to be an engineer.” “But,” I replied, “I don’t want to be an engineer. I want to be a journalist. I think I need typing.”

Still, why would anyone want to type when there were secretaries to do that? To discourage this tendency to select typing, the few of us brave enough to make this choice were directed to follow a winding set of uneven stone steps to a windowless cellar near the furnace where, in a dim light, there were two rows of heavy-duty Underwood typewriters. The instructor was a handsome priest-to-be, Brother Donahue. When someone said, “This room is dark. We can barely see the keyboard,” his response was, “This is touch typing. You don’t have to see the keyboard.” As it turned out, that course in typing was the most useful skill I obtained from four years of high school.

That was more than 50 years ago. Today, parochial schools have blended gracefully into the 21st Century. But I am pleased to report that my classmates, all of whom are retired, turned out to be doctors, lawyers, engineers and successful businessmen. One was even Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court. I suspect most of them got secretaries.

A brief career

(Continued from page four)

advocate was short-lived, undoubtedly because Grandma died and we happily stopped going to the Free Methodist church. My passion for temperance slipped away without fanfare. I do wish, however, that I had saved one of the little blue cards as a souvenir.

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

• **Richard Ingraham** (Biology, '91) moved last August to an urban townhouse in "The Gateway," which is adjacent to Embarcadero Center, only a few blocks from the Ferry Building. He and partner Bill Gregory were responsible for overseeing the preparation and tours of the noteworthy gardens of "Torre San Gimignano" in San Francisco in October.

• **Peter Buzanski** (History, '96) last summer entered a political thicket in his home town of Monte Sereno. When a majority of City Council members voted themselves a monthly salary of \$300.00 over the objections of a packed Council Chamber, he joined a coalition of citizens working for the recall of "the greedy Council Members."

• **Benton White** (Religious Studies, '92) traveled to his 60th High

School Reunion in Alabama over the summer and in August he and MaryLou took a river cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest. He misses many friends who are now gone, and appreciates the EFA more and more as it gives him a chance "to visit with those who are still above ground." Benton is currently working on a book describing the changes in his personal religious understanding over the years. His earlier book, *From Adam to Armageddon: A Survey of the Bible*, is in its 5th edition and still selling well after 25 years.

• **John Pollock** (English, '03) with his wife Penny, his brother and sister-in-law, rented a sail boat last summer and spent a week sailing among the British Virgin Islands. "And no one drowned!" he says.

Amazing.

• **Wanna Pitts** (Biological Sciences, '92) spent much of last year traveling. She and her husband Jerry spent two weeks in Israel with daughter Patsy, then two weeks in Pahrump, NV. and Death Valley (where she broke her index finger). In May, they attended their granddaughter's commencement from Pacific Univ. in Forest Grove, OR, where she received her doctorate in Pharmacy. In July, they attended their 60th High School reunion in Ashland, OR, and finally, in August, visited their other granddaughter in Maui, HI, to celebrate the birth of her son. The Pitts' are now first-time great grandparents.

• **Lorraine Pedretti** (Occupational Therapy, '94) has been teaching
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In Memoriam

• **Richard A. Smith** (Geology, Natural Sciences, '87) passed away peacefully at home in Oakland on December 13, '09, at the age of 85. He had valiantly battled pancreatic cancer for more than a year. Born in Southern Calif., Richard grew up in Redlands, CA where he graduated from High School in 1942. He spent a year at Stanford Univ. before joining the communications division of the US Air Force during WW II. He returned to Stanford after the war and took his BS in 1948 and a Masters degree in Geology in '50. He taught high school for 5 years while working toward his doctorate in Education, which he received from Colorado State University in 1956. He then joined the faculty at SJSU where he became a professor of geology. Dick was also active with the Peace Corps, serving as the SJSU

liaison to the Corps in the 1960s. As a child, Dick loved taking things apart to see how they worked: clocks, radios, and later, cars. That curiosity continued with the advent of computers, and he soon was working with two or three at a time, creating websites for family, friends and the National Association of Geoscience Teachers. He also established a successful sales business on eBay. He was an avid coin collector and a genealogical researcher. He is survived by his wife, Delcye Bailey, several children and grandchildren.

• **Jose Cerrudo** (Foreign Languages, '02) passed away peacefully on January 24, 2010 with his wife Toni and daughter Allison at his side. He was 65 years old and had valiantly battled colon cancer for seven years. Born in Spain, Jose emigrated to the US and attended SJSU as a student,

earning his BA and MA there. He began teaching in the Foreign Languages Department while he took his Ph.D at UC Berkeley in Latin American Studies. He taught at SJSU for 35 years and served as a popular Chair of the Dep't of Foreign Languages from 1998-2002, when he retired for reasons of health. Friends and colleagues will remember Jose (a.k.a. "Joe") for his *joie de vivre*, his enthusiasm for teaching, his warm, sunny disposition and his ready laugh. Above all, he loved to cook (paella was his specialty) and to eat with family and friends.

• **Frank Schiavo** (Environmental Studies, '03) died January 26, 2010 at the age of 70 of an apparent heart attack. He was found on the floor of his home by a friend who had gone to check on him when he failed to show at a scheduled
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Long term care going up

(Continued from page one)

to make their decisions.

We have asked a few of our EFA Board members for their opinions on this issue. What follows are the statements of three of them, all of whom seem to favor keeping your coverage if at all possible. In the next issue of the newsletter, we hope to present the thinking of those members who have decided to cut back, or quit their policies, or who decided not to sign up for Long Term Care at all. We welcome hearing from you. Please send your responses to the editor before the next issue in early April.

Dave Elliott:

Pat and I have both had full, lifetime coverage since our late sixties. I have had my policy now for almost fifteen years. So, given what we have already invested and in view of our advanced age, we decided to retain our present coverage and accept a hefty increase in our premiums. My dad spent the last four or five years of

his life in a convalescent facility and was financially ruined when he finally died. This was a bitter pill to swallow since he had long railed against Social Security and had complete contempt for FDR and others he considered to be socialistic. Ironically, in spite of all of his preaching about self reliance, he had no long term care insurance and he failed to invest in a way that would have provided security for him and his wife in their sunset years. My siblings and I had to advance money to our stepmother so she could pay for his funeral expenses.

Bob Wilson:

Whether to continue long term care in the face of increasing costs, people must consider their present age, the time they subscribed and the nature of their coverage. Long term care is expensive. Nursing home care may run from \$90,000 to \$100,000 or more per year. Of course the kind of coverage is also important. It could be only \$100 a

day. Full time in-home, registered-nurse care, could well approach \$90,000 per year. And, there is every indication that the costs will be inflating. By "Googling," one can find a very interesting article from Consumer's Report regarding the question "Should I have long term health care?" If one decides to acquire a long term health care policy, this article includes shopping guidelines. As for the answer to the question of continuing long term health care insurance: there is no "one size fits all," but I would suggest that if people have a policy, and they are in their sixties or beyond, it seems prudent that they continue with their coverage.

Bobby Gorenberg:

My husband and I have the top policy, and will keep it, because of our experience with my Mother's final illness. Mother had a PERS Long Term Care policy with a million dollar cap. Over a period of three years, she received the benefits from her policy. These included initial 24-hour in-home support, then Assisted Living, and finally, Skilled Nursing Care. The care she received was excellent and PERS covered the expenses. After approval for care, no additional premiums were due. The cost for her care was in excess of \$10,000.00 a month. It was wonderfully stress-reducing to know she was receiving quality care. The sad part is that when she died, she was within 4 months of reaching the million dollar cap. Fortunately, we did not have to make the decision to move her to another facility covered by MediCAL. But, lesson learned, we will keep our top of the line policy because having a cap in dollars isn't what we want. We want to spend our final years in the type of care we choose.

In Memoriam

(Continued from page six)

workshop. Schiavo taught at SJSU from 1974 to 2003. He was well known as an early environmentalist who made his 1500-square-foot home a showplace of green technology with water-filled walls, solar panels and all kinds of energy saving devices. He provided tours of his house to teach people how to live simply, efficiently and with minimum impact on the environment. He composted in his front yard, washed dishes by hand, took short showers (his average PG&E bill was \$11 a month) and prided himself on not creating any garbage. He made headlines in 1994 when he refused to pay

his monthly garbage bills from the City of San Jose because his house didn't generate any trash. He was a mentor to countless numbers of students and a leader in environmental studies. He was a member of Citizens Against Airport Pollution, and vice president of the Michael Lee Environmental Foundation. In 2003, he was honored by the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition and in 1996 was inducted into the Santa Clara County Environmental Hall of Fame. Frank told friends that when he died he wanted to be cremated and buried in his 1964 Chevy Nova, which he had converted from a clunker into a propane-powered car.

More Chat Room . . .

(Continued from page six)

ESL for Metro Ed for the past 9 years, and still enjoys it. The Pedrettis traveled to Spain in 2008 and took an Elderhostel trip to New Mexico this past October.

• **E. Lori Lindquist** (Kinesiology, '91) writes, "Much of my time is spent keeping up with my large tri-level house and yard. I still exercise 3 days a week and afterward our group goes out for coffee and doughnuts (our reward). Still have monthly get-togethers with Helen Ross, Paul Mico, and Celesta Jennett at Mimi's in Dublin. Bill Gustafson and I spent 2 weeks in Saugatuck, MI—one of our favorite places. Bill celebrated his birthday at the Morgan Hill Country Club with over 70 guests. Lots of fun!"

• **Abdel El Shaieb** (Organization & Management, '07) participated in the AIDS/Lifecycle 8 bike ride from SF to LA this past year. The

ride was 545 miles and took a week. He shared an 8x8 foot tent with George Grant (English) during the ride. He says, "Imagine two emeritus faculty over 70 years old living in a small tent with their luggage for 7 days."

• **Gordon Greb** (Journalism, '90) has just published a new book, "one of the first hybrid books in the history of publishing." This "hybrid book" connects the old technology (print) with the new (internet). In it the reader can easily find links to the vast, world-wide library of Google resources and bring up films, newsreels, photos and audio recordings that relate to the subject at hand. It converts footnotes to hyperlinks. The book is called Google Brain: Making Your Memoir a "Time Machine" on the Internet, and is available on amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com. Gordon says he's "an 'old dog' at the age of

88 who's running like mad to keep up with the kids who invented this stuff."

Ted Norton Retires as EFA Treasurer

Ted Norton is retiring as EFA Treasurer this month due to residual health problems. The EFA owes him a great debt of gratitude for his thorough and competent service as Treasurer for the past 4 years.

He will be succeeded for the remaining few months of his tenure by Abdel El-Shaieb (Organization & Management, '06). Please send checks or relevant correspondence to Abdel El-Shaieb, 5023 Wilma Way, San Jose, CA 95124.

EFA News

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