

San Jose State University

SJSU ScholarWorks

Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association
(ERFA) Newsletter

The SJSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty
Association

Spring 1-2-2010

SJSU ERFA News, Early Spring 2010

San Jose State University, Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/erfa>



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

San Jose State University, Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association, "SJSU ERFA News, Early Spring 2010" (2010). *Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association (ERFA) Newsletter*. Paper 12.
<https://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/erfa/12>

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the The SJSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association at SJSU ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association (ERFA) Newsletter by an authorized administrator of SJSU ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@sjsu.edu.

EFA News

A Newsletter of the San Jose State University Emeritus Faculty Association

President's Message

EFA Activities: Poll Results

By Bobbye Gorenberg

One of my goals as President this year has been to promote membership. As you may recall, a short time ago we decided to conduct a poll to better understand the interests of EFA members. As of January 31, 2010, 53 responses were received. The results are as follows:

Of those responding, 81% claim they choose to belong to EFA in order to stay connected to SJSU; 89% to stay connected with retired colleagues; 66% to stay abreast of happenings on campus; and 57% joined to get information about retirement and benefits. Of these respondents, 51% also belong to our statewide affiliate, CSU-ERFA.

When respondents were queried about their recent participation in the activities of EFA, 32% stated they had attended the 2009 Fall luncheon, 51% the Spring 2009 Luncheon, 43% the Holiday Celebration, and 11% the 2009 excursion to the California Academy of Sciences. Further, when asked if they would like to participate in other activities listed, 23% wished to participate in a Movie Group, 8% in a Bridge

Group, 21% in a Book Group, 11% in a Poker Group, 13% in a Photography Group, and 19% in a Political Discussion Group. Fifty one percent (51%) are interested in attending University events with other EFA members.

Of all those responding, 49% have directly participated in University activities since retirement. Seventeen percent (17%) are interested in volunteering for university events and 42% are interested in continuing scholarly and professional activities at SJSU. The numbers interested in sponsoring EFA scholarships and projects for students were identical, at 36%. Finally, 75% currently have an email account.

The general conclusions that may be drawn from these data were discussed at the Executive Committee Meeting of March 1, 2010. Several things were decided: 1) that we would have one of the Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee spearhead the organization of various activities for the membership; 2) a Movie Group and a Book Group will be organized initially and volunteers will be sought to head each of the groups;

REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST



P 51s and B 17s . . . headed for Berlin . . . you won't want to miss this powerful remembrance on pages 4 and 5.

3) an EFA group interested in attending university events will also be organized. Toward this end a candidate for the member-at-large position has already been sought who will initiate the organization of these activities and she has agreed to run as part of our slate of new officers, which will be presented at our May 7, 2010 luncheon.

If any of you have further suggestions, please contact either me or our incoming President, John Pollack. We are eager to hear your ideas.

Revisions to the EFA Constitution

By now all EFA members should have received a copy of the following letter, either through Email or regular mail. We're reprinting it below as a reminder.

Dear Colleague,

Over the years, the EFA Executive Committee has made occasional adjustments to our Constitution and Bylaws. Usually, these have been ratified piecemeal at our annual Business Meeting, which is held at each Spring Luncheon. This year the Executive Committee has undertaken a wholesale re-examination of its rules and procedures to bring them up to date and into conformity with our

(Continued on page seven)

Calendar of events



**Friday,
April 23**

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

**Friday,
May 7**

**Spring Luncheon
at the Villages**
See enclosed flyer.

University and Academic Senate News

By Peter Buzanski

The University and the Senate continue to deal with the problems created by the Chancellor's requirement to reduce the size of the student body for the coming year while demanding an improvement in the graduation rate within a six year period without any additional funding. A variety of proposals are being considered, some of which may result in weakening the degrees awarded by SJSU. Five CSU presidents, led by Robert Corrigan of San Francisco State, have convened an ad hoc committee to consider current General Education (GE) policies. According to the SJSU Chair of the Academic Senate, Michael Kaufman, this ad hoc committee is considering six issues: 1) Ensuring that all completed GE courses be transferable within the CSU system; 2) Mandating

that students who complete an Associate of Arts Degree have met all GE requirements (note: since SJSU requires upper division GE courses, this second proposal, if adopted, would eliminate an important ingredient of SJSU's GE package); 3) Decreasing the minimum required lower-division GE units to 30 (a 9 unit decrease); 4) Eliminating upper division GE requirements entirely; 5) Moving the existing American Institutions requirement (which currently resides within the existing GE distribution); and 6) Charging an additional fee when students get above 120 units. While none of these proposals has as yet been adopted, their presidential origins indicate they will be taken seriously by Trustees and, according to a book to which I shall refer in the closing paragraph, it is clear that Chancellor Reed is unenthusiastic

about General Education.

The requirement to increase the six-year graduation rate is being handled by SJSU Provost Gerry Selter. He created a task force to identify the barriers to student progress in an effort to overcome them. Senate Chair Kaufman reports that these barriers "come in a variety of shapes and sizes," including student preparation, expectations, inconsistent advising, and taking redundant classes. Kaufman said the entire University "will all have to play a part for this initiative to succeed," but concludes, "it is particularly important that faculty remain vigilant to ensure that we continue to offer quality education." Since the Provost is required to post a monthly report on the progress attained to achieve these goals, readers may visit these reports by consulting www.sjsu.edu/provost/Retention_Graduation/.

A proposal before the Curriculum and Research Committee to change the requirements for Special Majors is one more designed, in my opinion, to cheapen, or weaken, requirements. Without describing all details, suffice it to note that the minimum grade point average for Special Majors would be reduced from 2.75 to 2.5; the minimum units required would be reduced by 6 units for a B.A. degree and by 3 units for a B.S. degree. The committee voiced harsh criticisms of the proposal, but it is being proposed as another measure to hasten the graduation of so-called "super seniors."

The one significant policy recommendation passed by the Senate was the removal of ABC/NC grading for English 1A and 1B. This results in a student being able to pass both courses with a grade of D minus. However, it is not anticipated that this will happen
(Continued on page eight)

EFA Officers, 2009-2010

- President** -- Bobbye Gorenberg
- Vice Pres.** -- John Pollock
- Secretary** -- Irma Guzman-Wagner
- Treasurer** -- Ted Norton
- Members at Large** -- Lonna Smith
David Schwarz
Dennis Wilcox
- Academic Senate** -- Peter Buzanski
- Past President** -- Don Keesey

Ex Officio Members

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---|------------------------|---------------------|
| Membership | Wayne Savage | Communication | Sebastian Cassarino |
| Newsletter | Gene Bernardini (Editor) and Clyde Lawrence (Layout/Design) | | |
| | Consolations Cindy Margolin | | |
| Activities | Dolores Escobar-Hamilton | Archivist | Clifford Johnson |
| | Beverly Jensen | ERFA Reps | David Elliott |
| | Evelyn Neufeld | | Don Keesey |
| | | | Bob Wilson |
| Webmaster | Carol Christensen | ERFA | |
| | | Member-at-Large | Adnan Daoud |

EFA Office
MacQuarrie Hall 438D
Telephone (408) 924-2478
Email cjohns14@email.sjsu.edu
Visit the EFA Website at www.sjsu.edu/emeritusfaculty/

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.

How safe are our CalPERS pensions and health care?

By Dave Elliott

Back in 1969, when many of us on the faculty were out on the AFT strike, I received a couple of postcards, with local postmarks, showing a photo of the back of my head captured in crosshairs. I suppose I was singled out and targeted because of my visibility in the community at that time. I once was told that I was asked to explain our cause to all of the local service clubs because I was the only one among us who owned a suit and tie. This may or may not have been true, but being in the crosshairs did make me feel vulnerable, even though I was well dressed.

Today most of us who carry the title, "retired public employee," may also be feeling vulnerable, especially as we approach the fall elections. The current economic situation has emboldened the regressive interests that have always opposed decent retirements for public employees and they think they now have us in their sights.

The long and short of it is that our current faculty and those of us who have already retired are probably safe, but those who join the faculty in the coming years may not fare as well.

Before providing a brief assessment of the current threats, I would like to offer a few facts that may put things into a realistic perspective. First, although we are being told that California's pension obligations are "unsustainable" and could force the state into bankruptcy if they are not drastically curtailed, the truth is that pension funding only constitutes about 2.5% of General Fund spending. By contrast, 41% is spent on public education, 12% on higher education, and a whopping 10% on corrections. Furthermore, contrary to public perceptions, most of us do not have pensions of \$100K or more. The average CalPERS pension is \$25,000 per year and

half of the CalPERS annuitants receive \$16,000, or less. Only 1 percent of the half million retired public employees receive \$100K or more. And, finally, we need to be remember that, historically, almost 75 cents out of every dollar paid in public employee pensions comes from the investment returns of CalPERS, not tax dollars. If you are interested in learning more about how our pensions are funded, consult the CalPERS website, at www.calpers.ca.gov, where I found these facts. Also, Ted Anagnoson, our CSU-ERFA Editor, has a fine article on our pension system in the current issue of *The Reporter*.

Returning to the threats, there have been some efforts to curtail, or restructure, the pensions of present retirees, but none of them have gone anywhere, and it is not likely that any ever will. Our pensions are a vested right and, as such, they constitute a promise from the state that cannot be broken. It is the settled consensus of the legal professionals who have studied this matter that any reductions in the pensions of current state employees or annuitants would be met with insurmountable legal challenges, and could not stand. This is why former Assemblyman Keith Richman and his ideological kin in the California Foundation for Fiscal Responsibility have given up on immediate changes and have re-focused their energies on the pensions of future public employees.

Given its preoccupation with closing the \$20 billion gap in the next budget, the legislature probably won't be in a position to do much with pensions this year. Our CSU-ERFA Director of Legislative Affairs has reported, however, that as of the end of February, eighty (80) ballot initiatives had been certified for

signature collection, and three of them deal with pensions. According to the Sacramento Bee, one of these proposals, from Keith Richman's group, has failed to attract the funding it would need to succeed and may be withdrawn. Believe it or not, there is an apparent fear that advocating drastic cuts in state employee retirements might mobilize the public employee unions and make it more difficult to elect Republican candidates in the next election.

The changes proposed by the would-be initiatives include: lowering the salary percentage that is used to calculate retirement awards (currently 2% at 55 for us); basing retirements on the average of the three top years rather than the highest year only; placing caps on retirement amounts; increasing the minimum retirement age; and requiring high-income retirees to pay higher taxes. At this point it's simply too soon to venture any guesses about how many retirement initiatives, if any, will appear on the ballot. My best advice is to avoid signing any petition whose effects you don't understand.

Our health benefits present a different set of challenges. Although these benefits are also vested and must be continued by the state for present employees and annuitants, at least one scenario has appeared recently that could result in higher premiums and/or reduced benefits. As a means of reducing costs, the governor has proposed removing some employee groups from the jurisdiction of CalPERS and placing them under a different state agency. This idea has been vigorously resisted by all of the employee organizations and, so far, has not been adopted. By doing this, the state could theoretically reduce the premiums of the largest

(Continued on page seven)

REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST

Sharing memories with our members . . .

*The Day the Bombs Fell on "The Big B"***By Maynard D. Stewart,
Major USAF Ret. (Art, '89)**

Following World War II, I was fortunate to become acquainted with Grif Mumford and Harry Conley. Both were pilots in the 95th Bomb Group, 8th Air Force, that carried out the first successful daylight bombing raid on Berlin during the War. I was a waist gunner in a replacement crew assigned to the same outfit in the latter part of the war, but I didn't know either of them at the time. In the post war years, since the three of us lived in the Bay Area, we often got together and became close friends.

It became our custom to meet for lunch once a month to discuss our favorite subject: "How we won the Air War." We usually met at The Circus Club of Menlo Park

where, after one or two "Beefeater cocktails," the stories would begin to flow. We often talked about that historic raid on Berlin. Grif was the Mission Commander for that great event, and I relished hearing the story from him while Harry, the Squadron Commander, never failed to lament the fact that bad weather had prevented him from completing the same mission!

On 4 March, 1944, Berlin was selected as the prime target, after

bad weather the day before forced the mission to be aborted. There would be regular P-51 fighters to provide support, but something new was added. A "Pathfinder" aircraft was to accompany the mission. It was equipped with radar navigational equipment to

officer gave a detailed description of the weather, assembly and takeoff time, and the expected fighter opposition and flak. He ended the briefing by calling the mission a "gallant adventure."

Harry attended the briefing as usual, but his job that day was to stay at Headquarters and "sweat it out."

Just prior to takeoff time, the perimeter at Horham airfield was buzzing with activity. The B-17 Flying Fortresses ("Forts") sitting on their hardstands were being loaded with 500 lb. bombs as light snow showers swept across the runways. In the eerie dawn light, the gunners were mounting their 50 caliber Browning guns, and the Chaplains were passing among the hardstands giving their blessings to the crews. As takeoff time approached, you could hear the B-17

engines "coughing" and then roaring to life. Then the line of olive drab

planes began to lumber along the perimeter towards the runway to find their place for takeoff. At 0700 hours, a green flare from the control tower signaled the first plane to take off. The mission to the BIG B was on its way! The 95th had put up thirty-eight planes, including two Pathfinder planes.

The assembly in the skies above East Anglia had its usual frightening moments as the Forts from all the surrounding bomb groups jockeyed

(Continued on page five)



The B-17 Flying Fortress

help see through the clouds to the target below. Because radar was considered "top secret" at the time, many of the plane crews were not told of it.

The men were awakened at 0300 hours. They dressed, ate breakfast and assembled for briefing. A curtain was drawn open, revealing the big familiar map of the continent with a line from East Anglia to Berlin. There was the usual mix of whistles and groans that reflected the different attitudes about going to Berlin. The briefing

REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST

Sharing memories with our members . . .

The Day the Bombs Fell on "The Big B"

(Continued from page four)

for their appointed places in the formation. One bomb group was unable to attain combat formation and aborted before they left England. Another was scattered all over the sky while crossing the North Sea and abandoned the mission before reaching the coast of Belgium, but all the other groups of the 13th Combat Wing pressed on towards Berlin.

The formations leveled off at 27,000 feet over Eastern Belgium, but there was a solid layer of clouds that prohibited any view of the continent--a huge wall of dark clouds that rose to an altitude of 29,000 feet, forming a protective barrier to Hitler's Third Reich. About this time, Harry, anxiously awaiting reports at Base Headquarters, received a message saying that several flights had turned back or were headed for secondary targets. But soon after, a second message reported that the 95th Group led by Grif Mumford had already completed its bombing run on Berlin and was headed home! What had happened?

According to Grif, his radio operator received an encrypted bomber code message that read, "ABANDON OPS. RETURN TO BASE, 1200 HOURS RZNC." But the radio officer informed Grif that the message did not follow standard operating procedure, and Grif thought the message might have come from an enemy transmitter; he made a bold, arbitrary decision to continue to the assigned target! But confusion reigned among the other Flights. They had all received the message to turn back, and there was much intercom chatter about Grif's decision to continue. Some claimed that Division had

simply instructed Combat Wing Leaders to use their discretion on continuing to the target or bombing other targets of opportunity. But many formations began making 180° turns, even breaking radio silence to remark, "you'll be sorry." But Grif led 36 planes from two bombing groups eastward through the towering wall of clouds toward Berlin.

A new menace quickly arose! About twenty German fighter planes appeared and immediately began their attack on our Bombers. They were attacking from 12 o'clock high, and sometimes our pilots could see the faces of their attackers. The attack no sooner started than our P-51s appeared from nowhere and chased them away. This was a great morale booster, for many of the crews thought our escort fighters had returned to England with the other Bombers. The fighters stayed with the mission and saved the lives of the crews. Finally our formations reached the Initial Point, and German anti aircraft guns began a flak barrage that burst well above our formations, but eventually they honed in on us. When the lead plane attempted to open its bomb bay doors, the doors wouldn't open. They were frozen shut because the heating system in the plane had malfunctioned; the temperature outside was minus 65° Fahrenheit! Meanwhile, the Pathfinder plane was ordered to pull alongside Grif's plane and a dialogue ensued about how to proceed. It was agreed that the Pathfinder Bombardier would find the target using both visual and radar methods, then drop his bombs and a marker flare for the rest of the formations to follow. The plan worked! At 1335 hours, the

bombs were released in spite of the lousy weather, German fighters and flak. Our P-51s destroyed five German aircraft. Chuck Yeager was flying a Mustang that day and shot down his first German fighter! But sixteen P-51s were lost—some to weather—along with five Bombers. In all, twenty-nine planes completed the mission. The result: "We had proved that Germany's most prized and protected target, Berlin, was no longer safe from 8th Air Force air attacks!"

The planes of the 95th Bomb Group returned to Horham at 1705 hours. General Curtis LeMay was personally on hand to greet Grif and his crew. There was some fear that the "brass" had come to our base to discipline Colonel Mumford for failing to comply with the order to return home. It was quite the opposite! Grif was considered a hero and awarded the Silver Star by General LeMay as news correspondents crowded around to ask questions and get the story. One of those correspondents was Andy Rooney of later *Sixty Minutes* fame. Awards and commendations were given to other participating pilots who had taken part in the first mission to the BIG B and a third Presidential Unit Citation was given to the 95th Bombardment Group.

After the war, Grif continued to serve in the United States Air Force and finally retired as Colonel USAF. He died on 2 July 2007. Harry left the service after the war and returned to the "wide open spaces" of the west as a cattleman. He died on 9 July 2002. I continue to lunch at the Circus Club once a month with a couple of WWII vets and some younger "war buffs" who like to talk about the Big War. We always drink a toast to Grif and Harry.

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

• **Harry Powers** (Art, '94) writes, "Each year the city of San Jose gives a sculpture of mine to someone who enriches the sister-city bond with Dublin, Ireland. It's a smaller version of my large bronze work, 'Run Rivers Run—Liffey and Guadalupe,' which stands in the lobby of Dublin's Civic Offices building. Recent recipients have included T.J. Rodgers, President of Cypress Semiconductor, and Bertie Ahearn, Prime Minister of Ireland."

• **Calvin Stevens** (Geology, '98) has had a book on fossil corals published, with two other internationally known experts, by the National Research Council of Canada in 2008.

• **Warren Kallenbach** (Elem. Education, '95) and his wife Patricia celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary last spring with their three daughters and their families. Now living in Portland, OR, he writes, "we are enjoying the change of seasons, really wet or reasonably dry. I manage to walk and run a mile each morning, rain or shine."

• **Shirley Hopkinson** (Library/Info. Science, '92) says "Books, cats, music and hobbies fill my time."

• **Dick Ellefsen** (Geography, '99) continues full-time contract work with the Defense Department. "Lots of reports, and too many deadlines. But, to borrow a line from the movie 'White Christmas,' let's just say 'we're doing it for a pal in the army.'"

• **George Moore** (History, '98) writes, "I married Diane Phillips on July 11, 2009, with a host of children and grandchildren attending at Serene Lakes (near Soda Springs). Great joy!"

• **Dolores Escobar-Hamilton** (Education, '98) continues to be

involved with the EFA Board, the Beethoven Society, the "Friends of SJSU" at the Villages and regular contact with friends and colleagues. In collaboration with the Osher Institute for Lifelong Learning, she has directed the Senior Academy for Education at the Villages, arranging classes for retirees taught by retired SJSU professors. In addition, she says "the call of the golf course, tennis court, family and distant lands, keeps me busy. The weeks pass more rapidly each year."



• **John Canario** (English, '83) says he's "still waiting for Godot."

• **Ralph Edfelt** (Organization & Management, '04) has recently had a book published: *Global Comparative Management*, Sage Publications, 2009.

• **Ruth Yaffee** (Chemistry, '90) continues to travel. She went to Chile, Argentina and Antarctica in November, '08, and climbed Mt. Horn. She took a European cruise last summer, visiting England, Spain, Portugal and Italy, and returned to Egypt in November of '09. She still has a Great Dane dog, Mac--her ninth Dane.

• **Jose Villa** (Social Work, '92) is still living in Alcalde, NM, and was named Citizen of the Year by the

Espanola Chamber of Commerce for having organized the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area and for other volunteer activities.

• **Alvin Beckett** (Accounting, '82) says "There still remain four of us who came to SJSU to prepare Business teachers in the '50s and were excommunicated when the Fisher Bill was passed, moving courses from the professional to academic areas. Still alive are Richard Dale, Wanda Blockhus, Gerald (Jim) Maxwell and me. Only two of us stay in touch." Alvin and his wife Betty are both 93 years old and have been married 63 years. Both had their driver's licenses renewed last year to 2013 and still have their hearing, eyesight, mobility and mental faculties intact.

• **K.C. Leung** (Foreign Languages, '01) spent a week in Paris last May with his wife Alice. In September they joined a Mediterranean cruise, visiting many cities, including Istanbul and Ephesus. K.C. teaches in a community college once a week.

• **Elsie Leach** (English, '86) lost her husband Walter in June of '09, after 58 years of marriage. He had suffered with leukemia for the last ten years, after teaching psychology at the College of San Mateo for 30 years. Elsie's daughter and grandchildren live in Humboldt County.

• **Gareth Williams** (Physics, '02) and his wife Ann celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary at home with their children late last summer, then traveled to Wales for a second celebration with family and friends there. The trip took five weeks and included a sojourn to Paris via the Eurostar.

In Memoriam

• **Vivian Torre** (Administration) passed away in Daytona Beach, FL., on February 22, '10, from a stroke after a fall. Vivian graduated from UC Berkeley with an MA in English and taught in the SJSU English Department for a short period of time. She served as an administrative assistant to both Burt Brazil and President John Bunzel and was married very briefly to Professor James Clark in English. She was an avid reader, accumulated a large personal library of books, and loved Shakespeare and the theater. She is survived by her husband of thirty years, Donald Torre of Orange City, FL, and two sons from a previous marriage.

• **John MacDonald** (Engineering) died recently at age 97. He taught engineering at SJSU and designed part of the engineering center. He served as a Navy lieutenant and engineering officer in WW II and worked under Admiral Rickover, father of the nuclear navy. He was an avid golfer and a founding

organizer of La Rinconada Golf Club.

• **Robert Freimark** (Art '86) passed away on February 18, '10, at the age of 88, after prolonged, concurrent illnesses. Bob began teaching at SJSU in 1964 and taught in the Art Department for 22 years. He had a colorful background: as a youth in Toledo, OH, he was a Golden Gloves boxer, served in the Navy from 1939-46, and graduated from the Univ. of Toledo in 1950 with a BA in Creative Writing and from the Toledo Museum of Art with a major in Painting. He later took his MFA from the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan. He had a long and productive career as an artist, teacher and advocate for various liberal causes. His love of Mexico and its art led to constant visits there; he created a popular course on Mexican Art, collaborated on four documentaries on Latin American subjects, and was honored with a solo retrospective of his work at the Mexican Heritage

Plaza in San Jose in 2007. He taught "Rehabilitation Through Art" at Soledad Prison and set up an Artist in Residence program for the National Parks, which he initiated at Yosemite in 1984. He created a large series of silk-screen prints depicting all 50 states which he exhibited in Europe and throughout the US. He also completed a suite of 500 California landscapes, which he painted in watercolors and on outdoor sites. Bob lived a passionate, high-energy life filled with joyful adventure. He was preceded in death by his wife of 51 years, Lillian, who died in 2005, and leaves behind a son and daughter and numerous family members.

CalPERS pensions, health care: **How safe are they?**

(Continued from page three)

health plans in our state and might leverage some reductions in the amount that the state contributes to our premiums.

So, this is about all I can tell you at this point. The pensions of present employees and CalPERS annuitants are secure. And the health benefits of those of us who are already on board are also secure at this time, but we need to remain vigilant on this front. Any actions that the federal government might take in this field should not have any adverse effects on our health coverage, but it would probably be foolish to say its actions couldn't possibly hurt us.

Finally, I believe we still need to do everything we can to protect the pensions and health benefits of the next generation of faculty as well as our own. The very last thing we want now is to make our great university less attractive to promising new faculty.

Revisions to the EFA Constitution

(Continued from page one)

principles and practice. Most of the revisions are primarily to simplify operating procedures, and to clarify language and office-holding titles. The most obvious recent alteration to the Constitution is a name change from SJSU Emeritus Faculty Association (SJSU-EFA) to SJSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association (SJSU-ERFA). Changes to the Bylaws mostly clarify the status of our various members.

Since any and all changes have to be ratified by the membership at the Business Meeting/Luncheon, and members must be notified at least four weeks in advance of it, we are sending full copies

of the revised Constitution and Bylaws to all of you. Those with email addresses will receive their copies by email; those without will have them mailed to their home addresses.

Members are invited to read the document, ask questions and provide comments, preferably before the meeting, so all suggestions may be incorporated and presented to the membership for approval. Send your suggestions to the committee members responsible for recommending the revisions: Bob Wilson (Chair), Carol Christensen or Dave Elliott. You can find their contact information in the EFA Directory.

University and Academic Senate News

(Continued from page six)

unless a student has a very high cumulative grade point average.

For Fall, 2010, the enrollment targets established to conform to system-wide student reductions are 2800 freshmen and 2200 transfer students. Even though the deadline for application is May 1, 2010, 1,224 transfer students have already applied by mid-February, about twice as many as one year ago at this time, and some 70% of them have already paid fees. It appears SJSU will have no difficulty in achieving its enrollment goals; it will be difficult not to exceed the prescribed numbers. In addition, the Board of Trustees has enacted an "Early Start Policy" which will require incoming freshmen who require remediation in mathematics and/or composition to complete some of the remedial work in the

summer before they matriculate. This program would be self-supporting, meaning students would pay for the cost of the program, with fees similar to summer session fees.

Finally, widely discussed at several Academic Senate meetings, is the fact that California's Governor has failed to appoint a faculty trustee to the CSU Board. For over a year there has been no faculty trustee and, so far, no movement from the governor's office.

To conclude on a cheerful note: EFA

members should consider reading a book by Donald R. Gerth, the long-term president, first of

Dominguez Hills and then CSU Sacramento. Gerth has been in the CSU system from 1958-2003, and his book, *The People's University: A History of the California State University* makes very good reading for anyone having been associated with the CSU. It is detailed and thorough, beginning in 1850 and carrying the story forward to the present time. I recommend it highly.



Donald Gerth
and his new book.

EFA News

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
San Jose, CA
Permit No. 816

Return Service Requested