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Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association  
(ERFA) Newsletter

The SJSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty  
Association

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Fall 1-2-2011

## **SJSU ERFA News, Fall 2011**

San Jose State University, Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

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# SJSU ERFA News

REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST

Don't miss Betty Auchard writing about writing and Nils Peterson giving us a glimpse of his mother. Both are on pages four and five.

...

On page six, another of our poets shows us how seeing and writing can be combined.

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

## President's Message

# A New Strategic Plan for SJSU?

**By Dennis L. Wilcox**

"Mo" Qayoumi, as our recently installed president of SJSU prefers to be called, has embarked on an ambitious schedule of Town Hall meetings throughout the campus as part of his effort to come up with a new strategic plan for the university.

A special Town Hall meeting was held with about 20 members of SJSU ERFA who were quite verbal (some might say verbose) about (1) where they would like to see SJSU in five to seven years and (2) what should the university accomplish in the next five to seven years. It was a wonderful opportunity for ERFA to have some input into the strategic planning process, but most of us have been around long enough to see strategic plans come and go as each new president launches yet another round of formulating a plan.

There's nothing wrong with the concept, but the outcome is often less than desirable because most

strategic plans are so generic that you could plug in the name of almost any university. They all call for greater inclusiveness,

***The problem is that the university's aspirations don't match the available resources.***

faculty and student diversity, and a campus climate that stimulates learning and critical thinking. All strategic plans also want the university to be involved in the community, foster research, encourage excellent teaching, and have an outstanding reputation. In fact, the cynics will say that you don't really need a new strategic plan: just put a new date on the previous one.

The problem is that the university's aspirations don't match the available resources. The result is a wonderful document that doesn't generate much change as we, and other public universities, struggle just to keep the lights on. A strategic plan needs three components if it

is to become an effective blueprint.

The first component is a list of aspirations that are more than mission and goal statements.

They need to be operationalized and prioritized, which is probably the most difficult task of a

strategic plan because of campus politics, with people protecting their own "turf." Second, it must include a list of resources (human and financial) that is needed to accomplish the plan. The third component is a detailed list of how the necessary financial resources will be obtained to accomplish the goal. That means getting more alumni support, applying for more grants, and down-and-dirty fund-raising by both administrators and faculty to get the resources they need for their own projects.

Still, ERFA members can play a valuable role in continuing to help the university achieve its aspirations. Most of us, in our own way, have the experience

**(Continued on page three)**



**Fall Luncheon**  
**Friday, October 21**  
at Mariani's

**Holiday Celebration**  
**Friday, December 2**  
MLK Library

**See the enclosed flyers in this issue for complete information on both events. Forms and email addresses for RSVP-ing (can anyone actually do that!?) can be found there, too, along with a parking permit for December's event.**

**Academic Senate and University News**

*The excitement of a new Academic Year*

**By Peter Buzanski (History)**

Members of the academic community, away from the campus during the summer, may wonder what new sights they will behold. Returning in late August 2011, what strikes one immediately are the many fences enclosing construction projects. The largest of these is the Student Union building. Last spring, one could only see a very deep hole, created by the removal of the old cafeteria, including the picturesque "University Room," and the need to lay various large pipes into the hole. The ground has now been leveled, the hole is no more, but so far there is no hint of any building construction. There is only an immense crane, a half dozen pieces of heavy machinery, and

billboards stating that construction will be completed by Fall 2013.

The most important change that took place was, of course, the arrival of SJSU's new president, Mohammad Qayoumi, pronounced Kigh-YO-me. His address to the campus community was widely anticipated and a record crowd assembled in Morris Dailey auditorium. Having attended presidents' remarks at the beginning of every year from the days of John Wahlquist (1952-64), I can make certain generalizations about these traditional speeches.



**Mo Qayoumi**

They have ranged from the very concrete to the most intellectual, from very long to very short. John Wahlquist's speeches are the best example of one extreme. Since the campus was expanding greatly during his tenure, Wahlquist recited the specific amount of concrete (pun intended) poured for each building, the numbers of square feet being added, and similar details. On the other hand, the speeches of Robert Clark, president from 1965-69, represented another extreme. His first address explained C.P. Snow's thesis regarding the breakdown of communication between the sciences and the humanities, and



**John Wahlquist**

its detrimental impact on contemporary society. Clark emphasized the need to bridge that gap, and he offered suggestions for how that might be undertaken. Again, if Wahlquist's addresses were among the longest, perhaps followed by those of Don Kassing who injected personal stories into his speeches that were often hilarious, the address of our new president, who likes to be referred to simply as Mo, was the shortest on record. He spoke not more than fifteen minutes, followed by a question and answer session for which two microphones were set up in the auditorium.



**Robert Clark**

**(Continued on page three)**

**SJSU ERFA Officers, 2010-2011**

**President** -- Dennis Wilcox

**Vice Pres.** -- Jill Cody

**Secretary** -- Irma Guzman-Wagner

**Treasurer** -- Abdel El-Shaieb

**Members at Large** --Marian Yoder  
Bobbye Gorenberg  
Susan Meyers

**Academic Senate** -- Peter Buzanski

**Past President** -- John Pollock

**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** Lonna Smith  
Beverly Jensen      **ERFA Reps** David Elliott  
Evelyn Neufeld      Don Keesey  
Bob Wilson

**Webmaster** Carol Christensen      **ERFA Member-at-Large** Adnan Daoud

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**Visit the SJSU ERFA Website at [www.sjsu.edu/emeritusfaculty/](http://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.

## Academic Senate and University News

# *... a new Academic Year*

### **(Continued from page two)**

Most of Mo's speech condensed what the San Jose Mercury article contained just a day before the beginning of the academic year. He proposed to hold more than 40 town hall meetings, where he will interact with as many segments of the campus community as possible. He intends to listen to the concerns expressed in order to help formulate a strategic plan for SJSU's future.

As for enrollment, contrary to budget cuts that kept the two previous presidents, Kassing and Whitmore, from accepting many applicants, Mo wants to allow for maximum enrollment, which has resulted in SJSU allowing 4,000 freshmen and 2,700 upper division transfers to enroll for fall 2011. This raises the question whether, with greatly diminished resources, the quality of our educational program can be sustained.

The arrival of a new president also results in numerous administrative changes. Rose Lee, Vice President for Business Affairs, has retired, allowing Mo to bring in a close colleague from CSU East Bay, Shawn Bibb (who had been Rose Lee's deputy prior to becoming Lee's equal at CUS/EB); further, the new Vice President for Student Affairs, in his job for only one year, resigned his position in order to join the College of Education as a full professor. Most significant of all, the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Gerry Selter, gave notice that after 42 years at SJSU he wishes to retire at the end of the fall semester. A small search committee is being formed to find a successor to the Provost by the end of the present semester.

The first meeting of the Academic Senate during fall 2011 concluded with one of the Town Hall events mentioned above. These meetings are rigidly structured and designed

to elicit opinions on two subjects. First, "Where would you like to see San José University in five to seven years?" and second, "What should SJSU accomplish in the next 5-7 years in the areas of integrative learning, inclusive excellence and community connections?" The new president attends each of these Town Halls, the goal being that by the end of this fall semester, a comprehensive summary will be published to serve as the template for strategic planning which will take place during Spring 2012. One such Town Hall was held for the Emeritus Faculty. Those who were unable to attend are invited to participate by completing an online survey, at <http://www.sjsu.edu/president/strategicplanning/survey>.

The Senate also learned of issues that need to be addressed. One is a law, SB1440, signed by Governor Brown, concerning community college transfers who have completed a 60-unit general education package and are seeking to enter a CSU department which offers a BA degree of 120 units. They must be able to complete their chosen major in a maximum of 60 units. The problem posed by SB1440 is that while the CSU requires completion of the American Institutions (AI) requirement, consisting of American history, government and California government, the Community Colleges have no such requirement. How to fit the required AI into the existing 60 upper division units for the transferring students (while SJSU students will have satisfied the requirement as part of the lower division General Education requirement), poses a severe, perhaps even insoluble problem.

Without a doubt the most difficult problem confronting the Senate goes back to May 2011. At that time the Senate learned that a number of mergers of departments in the College of Humanities and Arts had been made by the Dean over the unanimous objection of some departments, and most likely in violation of University Policy governing the merging or reorganizing of departments. Since a verbal battle broke out on the floor of the Senate during that May meeting, Provost Selter wisely stated the Senate floor was not the proper place to settle the issues, and that he would seek a settlement during the summer. The Minutes of the Executive Committee, which met five times during the summer months, made clear no settlement was achieved. Therefore, this entire problem has been referred to the Organization and Government Committee (O&G), bound by that same University Policy which the Dean has been accused of violating. The O&G Committee is now charged to hold hearings on this question and issue its conclusive report as a recommendation to the President.

### *President's Message*

## **New strategic plan**

### **(Continued from page one)**

and background to assist Mo in formulating a strategic plan that doesn't just gather dust. Mo also acknowledges our importance to the university. As he said to us at our meeting, "Where else can you get 400 years of experience sitting around one table."





## REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST

Sharing memories with our members . . .

## Let's Write!

One of the goals of this newsletter is to encourage ERFA members to share memories and reminiscences from their long lives. What better time than retirement to think back on earlier experiences? Was there a particular book or event that seemed to change the direction of your life? An experience that, looking back, makes you laugh, or wonder about your reaction, or of those around you? We'd like you to share your recollections and cogitations with us.

Below is an early piece written by Betty Auchard, who is now a successful author of two books (see [bettyauchard.com](http://bettyauchard.com)). Betty began writing seriously after the death of her husband (Denny Auchard, Education) as she approached her seventies. She wrote then of the psychological barriers she experienced while beginning to write. Her thoughts may be relevant to those of you who need a bit of encouragement.

**By Betty Auchard**

I was considered a "new" writer when I had been writing full time for only five years. That's nothing compared to the time spent by others honing this craft. But when I first started putting my thoughts on paper the summer of 1998, I had things to say that came straight from my heart so I wrote for myself . . . not a bad way to start. Many of us long to put our stories into the written word, but we're afraid of exposing ourselves. The common lament is, "I've always wanted to write but I'm NOT a writer." I know what you mean. I've always wanted to be slim, but I like to eat. So what's keeping us from getting what we want? Well, for me, I'm not ready to give up goodies, but for you, the wannabe writer, it might be a fear of looking stupid on paper.

It would be dreadful if our inability to write a "proper" sentence were discovered by a free-floating grammar teacher among us who would read our words and start marking the paper with red comments without looking up. He might finally glance your way long enough to proclaim, "Nice little

story, but your commas are scattered like grass seeds in soil." And he would no doubt add, "And your sentences are wayyyyy too long." I mean—how embarrassing is THAT? That used to bother me, as well, but not anymore. Not since I discovered the importance of "free writing." Future writers, lend an ear because this is very important.

If you can talk, you can write. Believe me. I learned the truth of this statement a few years ago at a weekend writing retreat held at a small hotel in the Gold Country. Punctuation has nothing to do with the spoken word. We don't edit our words as we speak, pausing to insert commas and capitals. We just forge ahead and get our story told, riveting our friends as they laugh, sigh, or weep. No one interrupts to say, "Oops, you just spoke a dangling participle there, but don't mind me—go on with your story." I attended the workshop because I wanted to learn how to write. *I had no idea that I already knew.* There were 17 other people there for the same reason: to improve our writing skills.

The other participants were men and women more experienced than I at writing, a fact that caused me a wee bit of anxiety. Fearing I might be at a loss for words (which is rarely the case when I talk), it took

me a while to get the hang of how things were done during the written exercises. However, I grew more articulate with each drill, though it was an approach to writing that at first rendered me quite mute. Every short assignment was written in what is called "free-writing." It's a lot like talking.

Free-writing means that the pen never stops moving to dot an "i" or cross a "t." Nor does the pen pay attention to periods or capital letters. The pen's purpose is to be your voice that tells your thoughts to the paper, and once you get used to this method, the words flow effortlessly. It works. Many seasoned writers use free-writing as a warm-up session before they get serious about their next chapter or column.

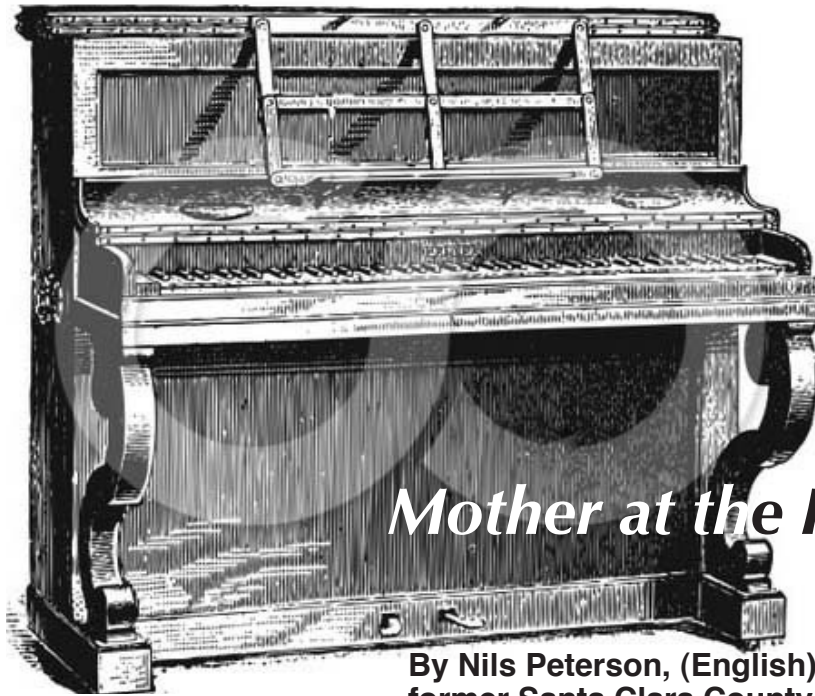
I use a pen sometimes when free-writing, but I also devised a method for using the technique with my keyboard. I close my eyes and type in a slow and steady cadence as I talk through my fingers, hitting the space bar twice instead of groping for the period. The secret is NOT to peek at the words on the screen. The typos are scattered unceremoniously throughout the text just like those casual commas in the dirt that I mentioned earlier. The text on the screen looks something like this:

*I will keep my eyes colodsd while I tipe and not worry about anyting but writing my thoughts al theyt come into my heag.*

But, hey, I can easily tell what I was saying. Can't you? Later, I can edit, retype, or rewrite to my heart's pleasure. No sweat. And that's where my English teacher friend comes in handy. [And where a newsletter editor can help.] He can tell me where to add the commas later. It's called "Comma Counseling." So, what are we waiting for? Let's write!

## REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST

Sharing memories with our members . . .



### *Mother at the Piano*

**By Nils Peterson, (English)  
former Santa Clara County Poet Laureate**

*Her piano, tall, dark, no-nonsense – upright like an unmarried uncle, followed us from house to house. After a bed and chair, it was the next piece of furniture my father bought her.*

*All music seemed hers. “I’m Called Little Buttercup” flowed into “Just a Song at Twilight,” then “Welcome Sweet Springtime,” words set to a Chopin prelude. Sometimes, at parties, she’d improvise under Nels Nelson’s beery tenor as he tried to sing “Jeg Elsker Dig” like Jussi Björling.*

*Sometimes, when she was sad, she’d play “I’ll Take You Home Again Kathleen” to bring forth a shadow sadness from me. Yes. I did not want my mother to be sad. Even more, I was afraid of her longing for Sweden.*

*When my father died, she moved 600 miles back to an apartment in a town where there were still Swedes. What happened to the piano? Was it given away, sold for a hundred bucks, or just left behind to find its own way? I was in California. My brother did this arranging.*

*When she had to leave that apartment for the old people’s home. I was the son to fly back. She was 80 and filled with grief at the necessity of even more change. She’ll last maybe a year, I thought to myself, but she lived to be almost 100.*

*There was a piano, lonely, yes, like an unmarried uncle, in the lounge of Friendship House. But it would smile as towards the end she’d have an attendant push her wheelchair up to its keys, lean forward, and watch her fingers bring forth, accurate as a music box, “Edelweiss” from *The Sound of Music*.*

*One of the other women, in the thin exasperations of old age, said to me, “We wish she’d play something else once in awhile,” but she played – by heavens, she played.*

# 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](mailto:gebernard@comcast.net) or by snail mail at 775 Seawood Way, San Jose CA 95120.

• **George Cochern** (Instructional Technology, '89) brings us up to date on the status of the Cochern progeny: five children, 23 grandchildren and 32 great-grandchildren, but who's counting?

• **Joanne Rife** (University Relations, '92) says, "Travel seems to have overtaken my life. Since September, 2010: Alaska (2 weeks); Europe (3 weeks); Massachusetts (3 weeks); Florida (3 weeks); Oregon (2 weeks); Sierra Nevada (skiing, 2 weeks); Death Valley (1 week); Dallas (1 week); and China (3 weeks). I'm exhausted!"

• **Tim Hegstrom** (Communications Studies, '10) took 15 students to Jyvaskyla, Finland, for a three-week study-abroad program early this summer. Ten different SJSU majors were represented. Students met and studied with other international students at the University of Applied Sciences there.

• **Calvin Stevens** (Geology, '98) has

completed a first draft of a novella entitled "Reflections of a Wyoming Cowboy." It's loosely based on knowledge he gained growing up in Wyoming. It's available at [www.cowboyslives.com](http://www.cowboyslives.com)

• **Orpha Quadros** (Counseling/Social Work, '83). Her husband, Milton, has written to inform friends and colleagues that Orpha has been quite ill for the past three years.

• **Charlene Archibeque** (Music, '05) has just finished a full year of teaching at SJSU, directing both the Concert Choir and Chamber Singers. She's been filling in while the School of Music and Dance conducted a national search for a new Director of Choral Activities.

• **Shirley Brown Bates**, widow of James Brown (Instructional Technology/Administration, '76), is taking a trip to New Zealand this October with her daughter and granddaughter. Shirley is actively working as a volunteer in the library at The Villages, where

she also orders large-print books, "which are very popular in a senior community."

• **Pat Nichols** (Linguistics and Language Development, 2000) is currently coordinating the School Gardens group for Slow Food South Bay. She is growing her own vegetables to eat and freeze: "Farm to Fork for this century!"

• **David McNeil** (History, '05) reports the recent death of his wife, Sally Scully, professor emeritus at San Francisco State University. Sally was a specialist in Italian history, and a wonderful companion to David. He wants to commend the hospice home care they received—a very positive experience.

• **Arlene Okerlund** (English/Dean, H&A/AVP, '01) taught an Osher Institute class in Shakespeare to "46 intensely focused senior citizens" at Santa Clara University this past Spring. In October, Arlene's biography of Elizabeth of York will be issued in paperback by Palgrave Macmillan.

"Though much is taken, much abides."  
Alfred Lord Tennyson

## Write the Story as if No One Else Had Written It Before

--John Pollock

John Pollock, with his brother and sister-in-law, recently took part in a photo/poetry exhibit in Boston. They matched their poems with photos to enhance the experience of both.

*Old age is its own journey  
beyond meadows of success,  
beyond forests of regret.  
If we are not so sure-footed --  
the eye not so keen,  
the ear not so discerning  
as once they were -- so be it.  
The hand grasps the staff  
even yet. Let the journey  
begin. Toward what illumination  
we may progress, only the blind,  
the crazy and the fool may guess.  
Let Time's Clown bless  
this sometimes sad, sometime reckless  
stumbling. Onward is all.*



Photo by Judy Pollock



## *In Memoriam*

• **Ben Hazard** (History, '83) passed away on May 16, 2011, at the age of 91. Born in Massachusetts in 1919, Ben entered UCLA as a Chemistry major in 1937. His interest in the Japanese language led him to take night school courses on his own. The attack on Pearl Harbor would change his life. On the verge of graduating with a degree in Chemistry, he was recruited by Army Intelligence and given more intensive Japanese language training before serving as an intelligence officer in the South Pacific. At the end of the War he gave up Chemistry and enrolled in Oriental Languages at UC Berkeley, earning a degree in one year (with three years of language credits). He returned to active duty in occupied Japan, and after the Korean War came back to Berkeley with enough resource materials for an MA and Ph.D thesis in History, which he earned in 1957 and '68, respectively. He continued serving in the US Army Reserves, retiring as a Colonel. Ben began teaching Japanese Military history at SJSU in 1963. He also had developed enough proficiency in the Korean language to publish articles on both Korean and Japanese military history. In addition, he became an ardent student of Japanese martial arts, achieving a 7<sup>th</sup> Degree *Hanshi* in Kendo (Japanese fencing). He published several encyclopedia articles on various forms of martial arts and established training courses at SJSU. He leaves behind four daughters, three grandchildren and a host of martial arts students.

• **Warren Faus** (Art, '74) passed away in late July, 2011, just six months after his beloved wife Frances died. He was devastated when she died earlier this year, on

his birthday. Like him, she too was a painter. They met when she, a widow with two children, enrolled in his art class at SJSU in 1954. They were married for 55 years. Warren was born on February 12, 1919, in Montana, attended the Minneapolis School of Art, graduated from Montana State in 1942 with a BA and served as an officer in the Pacific during WW II. While in Japan, he developed an interest in Japanese art and architecture. After the War, he taught at San Jose State, took an MA degree from Stanford and did graduate work at the University of Hawaii and the Honolulu Academy of Art. At SJSU, he became Chair of the Art Department, then Dean of the School of Humanities and Arts. He instituted the first Asian Art History classes at the University. After retiring, he and Frances moved to Belvedere and he became active in San Francisco's Asian Art Museum, serving both as President of the Society for Asian Art and Chairman of the Asian Art Commission in San Francisco. He resumed painting in both watercolors and oils and his works have been exhibited throughout Montana and California and can be found in several private collections. He leaves behind two daughters, two grandchildren, a great grandchild and several devoted nieces and nephews.

• **Jack Holland** (Management, Business, '79) died on July 21, 2011, at the age of 89. Born and raised in San Diego, Jack graduated from San Diego State in 1942 with a BA and served as a Naval Supply Officer in the South Pacific during WW II. After the war, he took an MBA from Stanford in 1948 and began teaching at SJSU that same year.

He became the first chairman of the Management Department and served in that capacity for 11 years. He was the first Vice President of the Society for Advancement of Management and won awards from several banking and purchasing associations. Jack was an inspirational lecturer and popular with students, earning the Outstanding Professor Award from the student Tower Society and ranking at the top of the Tower List for many years. He gave motivational lectures all around the world. He was most interested in the human potential movement, which combined religion, science and spirituality. He became an ordained minister in Divine Science, a co-founder of both the Science of Mind Institute and the Institute for Human Growth and Awareness, and he lectured extensively on the subjects of parapsychology and psycho-cybernetics. The titles of his books give an indication of his interests: *An Outline of Materials Management; Man's Victorious Spirit; Your Freedom to Be; and Collected Essays of Jack Holland*. His belief in the power of the mind to overcome obstacles may have helped him in his personal life: he was completely cured of cancer, twice, after it had been diagnosed as incurable. He leaves behind two nephews and their families.

• In addition to these, three other colleagues have passed on in the last several months: **Ellen Weaver** (Biological Sciences, '91), **Fred Weed** (Political Science, '89) and **Christiane Cooke** (Foreign Languages). Unfortunately, we have little or no information on them.





**SJSU ERFA Biographies:*****Keep them coming!*****By Pat Nichols**

Carol Christensen and I have a dozen new biographies to mount onto the ERFA website by the year-end holidays. If you want yours included also, please get it to me by November 1. These will be the last bios I can prepare for e-publication.

We hope a current ERFA member will be willing to pick up this project and prepare additional bios as faculty members retire. These comprise the only public record we have of our faculty histories at SJSU. Michael Smith created the e-form, which is easy to use and can be either filled in or printed out and mailed. Carol will continue to mount completed forms on the website.

Thanks to all who have participated so far. It has been a joy to learn about your lives and your work at SJSU.

SJSU  
**ERFA**  
**News**

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