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Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association  
(ERFA) Newsletter

The SJSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty  
Association

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Fall 1-1-2012

## **SJSU ERFA News, Fall 2012**

San Jose State University, Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

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Remembrance of Things Past

Peter Buzanski reminds us of how we got from there to here historically, while Gordon Greb tells us of the pleasures of just staying put physically. Read all about it on Pages 4 and 5.

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

President's Message

Looking Forward—and Backward

By Jill Cody

Welcome to a new program year! Your ERFA Board of Directors has already been very busy planning interesting and meaningful events for you to enjoy and stay connected with colleagues and to the University.

My name is Jill Cody and I'm proud to be your president for this coming year. As you may already know, the positions of the President and Vice President rotate every year. This is probably so we don't get too power-hungry and order too much coconut shrimp for our holiday event.

Our first event of the year will be held on November 1, at the Flames restaurant in downtown San Jose, where we will be able to hear Dr. Larry Gerston, SJSU professor of Political Science, who is in high demand this political season. Several years ago, I hosted in my

home an author's party for Dr. Gerston and Dr. Terry Christiansen for a book they jointly authored on California's gubernatorial recall. As a result, I was very comfortable

in calling Dr. Gerston to see if he would be available to speak at our fall luncheon. It wasn't a hard sell. Dr. Gerston was pleased to be invited and is looking forward to being able to speak before such an august group. Since this luncheon is just a few days

before the election, you might have some hot-

topic questions you'd like to ask concerning the national elections, or some based upon his expertise in California politics. We will have his new book, *Not So Golden After All*, for sale at the event.

To tell you a little bit more about myself, I'd like to go back to when I was 11 years old. It was then that I first learned about San



Photo by Carol Christensen

Jill Cody

Jose State University when my father, Art Cody, was hired as a philosophy professor. I remember visiting him in his office and from time to time bringing him a brown-bag lunch from home. When I became college-age, I returned to San Jose State University and became a double graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Recreation and Leisure Studies and a Masters in Public Administration. What did I do with those two degrees? I went on to have a sometimes fun, mostly demanding, and continually meaningful career dealing with municipal parks and recreation departments in the South Bay area.

It is sometimes awe-inspiring how life comes full circle. In 2004, I was asked to chair the Recreation and Tourism Department at San Jose State University. It was kind of surreal. There I was, Chair of a department that I graduated from nearly 30 years before—in the same building, with the same classrooms and faculty offices. Even some of the same faculty were still around, but now in the Provost's office (Yes, I'm talking about you, Paul Brown!). It was like I never left.

So now that I've retired, it is my immense pleasure to be part of the ERFA Board of Directors, a very warm, supportive and fun group, and to serve as your president this coming year.

calendar

Thursday, November 1, 2012

Fall Luncheon

The Flames

Speaker: Larry Gerston

Topic: National Election

Friday Dec. 7, 2012

Holiday Celebration

MLK Library

Room 225-229

University & Academic Affairs News

# New construction, position searches, budget worries

**By Peter Buzanski,  
Academic Senator**

For those who did not frequent the SJSU campus this summer, a startling new view greeted them upon their return. At the beginning of the summer, there was only a deep hole where the cafeteria had been. Now an expanding student union, while far from completed, has altered the landscape. The structure, extending from 7<sup>th</sup> St almost to 9<sup>th</sup> St., is now visible and one gets a good idea of how

the finished building will appear in 2014. Architecturally, it's not only good looking but designed to offer pleasure to its users. There are open balconies and a sweeping curvature to the building that clearly incorporates modern concepts.

Over the summer there have also been changes in personnel. Joan Merdinger, Vice President for Faculty Affairs, retired, as did Nancy Bussani, Vice President for Development. A search

committee for Bussani is well underway. The Dean of the College of Engineering became the Academic Vice President at CSU/Chico and a search for a new dean will be completed shortly.

Hovering over all campus concerns is the question of our budget, which is linked to California's immense shortfall and to the solutions being considered



**Joan  
Merdinger**

by politicians as well as educators in charge of budget affairs. There have been several open forums on budgetary matters held on campus during the summer and continuing currently. But much will depend on the November election in California. To date (late September), SJSU has seen its appropriation reduced by \$33 million, which the administration is dividing into a two year proposed solution. By imposing a reduction of \$16 million this academic year and the rest in the next, they believe this shortfall can be overcome. Of course, it means fewer classes, and fewer adjunct faculty members. For example, one department which offered 69 different classes last year is offering only 50 this semester, and it has ordained that three more adjuncts will be missing in Spring 2013, resulting in even fewer classes at that time. All planning for the current academic year is based on the expected failure of



**Nancy  
Bussani**

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**Vice Pres.** -- (TBD, Fall 2012)

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**Academic Senate** -- Peter Buzanski

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## University & Academic Affairs News

# ... all part of the University's new academic year

Continued from Page 2  
Proposition 30.

The November election will determine the fate of Proposition 30. If the proposition passes, no further reduction for SJSU will take place and the governor has

a semester, increases in graduate course fees, and enrollment limitations, among others.

Given the budget crisis, which affects the entire CSU, it's not unexpected that the Chancellor's Office would come up with

item that would remove the nine-unit upper division general education requirement currently in place. While this BOT curricular matter was discussed during the summer months when most faculties were scattered, enough academic senates of the 23 CSUs immediately cried foul, citing any number of trustee policies giving the faculty the authority to determine curricular matters. President Qayoumi, after a discussion of this BOT proposal with our Senate's Executive Committee, flew down to Long Beach to argue against this general education reduction. As a result, the BOT withdrew the item from their agenda and substituted an alternative which makes each university in our system responsible for finding its own ways to reduce the unit load for an undergraduate degree to 120 units. Qayoumi returned from Long Beach as a hero from the SJSU point of view, as well as that of other campuses.

It is impossible when discussing the budget not to summarize the statewide emphasis on online instruction. The CSU has hired an administrator to prepare for system-wide online instruction, and ePearson College has already been selected to be the instrument to further this effort. During the summer, SJSU hired two experts in the field of Academic Information and Technology and they recently came to speak to the Senate about their plans. These experts, in explaining their mission and what is already being done throughout the campus, conveyed their knowledge using a language and terminology that I must confess was less than clear to this scribe.



photo by Peter Buzanski

**The new Student Union appears to soar over where the old cafeteria once stood. The older building, with its "State College Modern" design, will not be missed.**

promised that for 2013-14 the CSU budget will be increased by \$125 million. If Proposition 30 fails, an immediate trigger is imposed; this will cost SJSU an additional \$6.5 million, a sum which has caused our president, Mo Qayoumi, to say repeatedly that none of the prior methods of reducing costs will suffice. New approaches that will be employed include increases in student fees, caps on the numbers of units students will be allowed to take in

several unpleasant, supposed remedies. One such idea, favored by the retiring Chancellor, is that of imposing a 120 unit limit for undergraduate degrees, except for those that require additional units because of accreditation or discipline-related mandates. Initially, the Board of Trustees (BOT) attempted to sneak through a proposal to enable departments and programs to reach a 120 unit limit more easily by placing on their agenda an

## Remembrance of Things Past

Sharing memories with our members . . .

# Born to Teach?

### By Gordon Greb (Journalism & Mass Communications)

I'm a native Californian who's been tempted many times by opportunities to go elsewhere, but refused because my ancestors had a hard time getting here. What landed me in San Jose in 1954 was a job offer by radio station KSJO to become its news director. Having worked for three years on a Ph.D. degree at Stanford University when my GI Bill ran out, I needed to stay close to "the Farm" to finish, and I naturally accepted.

When Dwight Bentel, head of journalism, offered me a position at San Jose State two years later, it was exactly what I'd been waiting

for. What I didn't expect was that San Jose State's openness to new ideas would keep me well past the completion of my Ph.D. language requirements and required course work, while offering me a permanent home.

Seeing the chance to build a professional broadcast news degree program kept me here. Thanks to the support we got from SJSC's Instructional Television Center and San Francisco Bay Area stations, the state's bargain basement budget didn't stop us. We created, experimented, and worked our way around problems. Having my own teaching laboratory not only kept me on campus with marvelous students eager to learn, but in retrospect placed me where I really belonged as though it were preordained fate.

Soon our leadership was being recognized by the industry and

our students were winning top honors in nearly every competition they entered. We were placing professionally educated graduates everywhere. My graduates became "pros," like Valerie Dickerson Morris, who anchored the news at CNN from New York, and others doing the same from news centers in Moscow, Paris, London, the Middle East, Central America and the battlefields of Vietnam.

Our leadership can be easily illustrated. On visiting CBS in New York in 1963, I was astonished to

learn that we at SJSC had been broadcasting the news from the setting of an actual newsroom over San Jose's KNTV (Channel

11) long before Walter Cronkite began doing the same. When New York's CBS news director showed me Cronkite's new set, we'd already been doing it.

When instructors at the Armed Forces Radio School in New York saw a copy of my *Radio-Television Style Book* published at SJSC, the Army School immediately adopted it, making it standard on all military stations in the world. It had been shown to them by one of my graduates, Bill Knowles, who became ABC News bureau chief in Washington, DC, and later, a University of Montana professor.

Long before it became a standard practice of the news industry, I taught my radio reporters how to record interviews over the phone and to put these "actuality segments" into their newscasts. When Maurie Webster, the general

manager of KCBS, saw what we were doing in 1959, he ordered his chief engineer to install the same kind of equipment and follow our practice—helping KCBS become one of the finest "all news" radio operations in the country.

It should be easy to see what influenced me to teach at San Jose State. When my maternal ancestors settled in Southern Alameda County in 1859, they arrived by covered wagon and planted themselves on a farm near Mission San Jose. I started reading the funnies in the San Jose Mercury as a lad, and the city of San Jose is where we all went to shop, enjoy ourselves, and ultimately go to college.

My mother Irene was one of the first members of her pioneer Benbow family to go to college, enrolling at San Jose Normal to study English literature before the First World War. Relatives like my uncles and aunts began studying for teaching certificates in the 1920s at the same institution. The next generation chose San Jose State as well when it was their turn to go to college—my brother took a B.S. in engineering after World War II, several of my cousins came to qualify as K-12 teachers, and later, my daughter earned her master's in linguistics.

Although I did my undergraduate work at the UC Berkeley and postgraduate work at USC, Minnesota and Stanford University, becoming a teacher at San Jose State was no accident. San Jose is where eager young people were coming to study from all over the world and I had no difficulty whatsoever in recognizing each and every one of them as members of my own family.



## Remembrance of Things Past

Sharing memories with our members . . .

# San José State College Becomes a University

By Peter Buzanski (History)

*(The following account by Peter was intended to be given at a University ceremony devoted, in part, to honoring the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Academic Senate. Unfortunately, there wasn't enough time available, so the speech was not given. Here it is.)*

In the fall of 1960, three new faculty members were provided primitive office space on campus in a temporary shack, designated B-11. It was a WW II quonset hut, set down near where the statues of Tommie Smith and John Carlos are presently located. I was one of those new hires, along with my friend, Ted Norton. The third was the sociologist Snell ("Mick") Putney, who was married to Gladys Putney, also a sociologist. When the Putneys published their first scholarly monograph, *The Adjusted American*, the publisher thought the book would have more appeal if Gladys' name were sexier. Therefore the book was published under the names of Snell and Gail Putney. Mick was eager to have his wife hired by the college, but an anti-nepotism policy prevented this from happening for several years. Eventually, the now-named Gail was hired as a full-time faculty member, and after divorcing Mick and marrying an artist named Stan Fullerton, Gail soon moved up the administrative ladder to become the 21st president of the university, serving from 1978-1991.

Over the course of the years since then, other scholarly couples were hired and many women appointed to the highest administrative posts on campus. A veritable revolution was taking place as San Jose State underwent a transformation from a state teachers college to a major university.

At the recent inauguration of Mohammad Qayoumi as the 28th president, I calculated that I have personally seen 40% of all the presidents of our now-called University. I remember well when John T. Wahlquist, the 17<sup>th</sup> president, decided to retire and was replaced by Robert D. Clark in 1964. It was a momentous occasion. Clark was the first president to be chosen under a new structure that had been created in 1960, namely, that of a State College system headed by a Chancellor. He lost little time in taking advantage of the winds of change that helped shape San Jose State as we know it today.

The period following the end of World War II saw the huge ballooning of college and university enrollments, the result of the G.I. Bill of Rights. Of the fifteen million men and women serving in the armed forces, about eight million enrolled in institutions of higher education. San Jose State College experienced that enrollment growth, which necessitated the hiring of additional faculties. Most of the new hires, the product of prestigious doctoral-granting universities, were dissatisfied with the teachers college aspect of SJSU. This was one of the reasons that Wahlquist resigned—he was well suited for a teacher's college, but he saw the incoming waves, and thus made room for change, which Robert Clark immediately began initiating as chief executive.

On his first day, Clark addressed the faculty in Morris Dailey auditorium. His speech recalled C.P. Snow's description of the academic schism between two cultures, the liberal arts on the one hand, and the sciences on the other. Clark hoped to bridge that gap by emphasizing interdisciplinary

cooperation. But as the newer hires in that 1964 faculty applauded his remarks, the older, teacher college-oriented faculty had difficulty in comprehending or accepting the new president's ideas.

Clark quickly showed his determination to begin the process of transforming the college. First, in governance, he informed the faculty that the title "department head" was abolished. That title had been given to whomever the president designated to be the chief of a department, with little or no input from that department's faculty. Henceforth, that position would be called Department Chair, and it was the duty of that department's faculty to select and nominate the Chair whom the president would confirm. The faculty, for the most part, was overjoyed in having a voice in the selection of their Chair. But the new policy initiated a virtual war between the newer faculty hires and the old teacher college faculty: about half of all department heads resigned and returned to classroom teaching. By the time Robert Clark left a few years later, most of the older faculty had either retired or become resigned to the new structure.

Clark undertook a multi-faceted effort to bring about interdisciplinary education. He encouraged experimental pilot programs like Tutorials and New College and paved the way for the Humanities Honors Program to become an established department, which, in time, would include both Religious Studies and Creative Arts.

Before he retired, Wahlquist had been forced by the new system's Board of Trustees to establish an advisory body of faculty called the "Academic Council." In its first

Continued on Page 8

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

• **Ralph Edfelt** (Organization & Management, '04) and his wife Nidia traveled for three weeks in Belgium and The Netherlands this past Spring. They stayed for a week with former SJSU visiting professor Frans Tempelaar and his wife Reike.

Last year Ralph and his doubles partner shared the U.S. Tennis Ass'n Norcal Player of the Year honors for Senior Men's tournament play (age-70, doubles category).

• **Dave Elliott** (Communication Studies, '93) and his wife Pat have had an exciting year. Their youngest daughter got her MSW Degree, one granddaughter received her Ph.D. in Geophysics (UC Berkeley) and another got married over the summer.

• **Bob Gordon** (English, '86) writes that the Gordons are still mobile, though he now uses a wheelchair and she a cane. They have lots of support from children, friends and neighbors. They are still in their Connecticut home, and continue to summer in Maine. Jean no longer paints, but Bob still writes articles "on subjects like gun control that make me mad." Their progeny are scattered widely, including Virginia, N. Carolina and Washington, DC. The Gordons consider themselves lucky for their family and "lucky to be together after 68 years." They love New England, but miss their San Jose friends.

• **George Grant** (English, '01) once again participated in the AIDS bicycle ride from San Francisco to L.A.--a seven day trip. It rained on the cyclists for three hours before the ride was stopped for that day in Salinas. Otherwise, all went well.

• **Richard Post** (Mathematics, '84)

lost his dear wife Joan in February of this year. She passed away just three months prior to their 60th wedding anniversary. Richard will be teaching an OLLI Statistics class at CSU Monterey Bay this fall on a volunteer basis.

• **Joanne Rife** (Public Affairs, '92) backpacked a year ago August along the entire Segment 1 of the John Muir Trail (56 miles from Yosemite Valley to Devil's Postpile). She then traveled to Sarasota, FL to attend the Tampa Bay Ukelele Get-Away with her daughter. She spent Christmas in Tucson with her son and his family, and then most of the winter skiing at Bear Valley and at Mt. Bachelor in Oregon. She also volunteers at Henry Coe State Park. She invites everyone to come visit there.

• **Blodwyn Cockrell**, widow of Loren Cockrell (Art, '87), continues living in a residential care community in Portola, CA. "Billie" suffered severe health problems this past winter, but is recovering and walking once again with the aid of a walker. Her dementia is progressing, but she still remembers family and friends.

• **Fred Schutz** (English '86) and his wife Natalie took an "enthraling" trip to Spain this year. They began in the north, visiting Frank Gehry's beautiful museum in the Basque city of Bilbao. They continued south to Madrid and on to the southern shore of Torremolinos. They traversed Don Quixote country and learned about Marcona almonds--"THE BEST" Fred says. "The trees look like ours, but the nuts are very different and altogether superior." Everywhere, Fred found the people "welcoming and accepting of my Mexican-accented Spanish. We recommend Spain heartily."

• **Edith Crowe** (Library, '07) served on the planning committee for the 43rd annual conference of the Mythopoeic Society. As Papers Coordinator, her primary job, she says, "was to solicit and review papers, keep presenters informed, do scheduling (with the Program Chair) and generally herd cats." The Conference was held, Aug. 3-6, at the Clark Kerr Conference Center, UC Berkeley.

## *Sigler submitted as vice president*

At the Fall Luncheon on November 1, The ERFA executive board will submit the name of Carmen Sigler, retired provost, to become vice president of the organization. The VP position was unfilled at the regular May meeting because our designated nominee withdrew at the last minute to accept a long-term international assignment.

The ERFA Constitution requires that the membership be given two week's notice of a business meeting at which the vice president can be elected by the members attending that meeting. Therefore, a short business meeting will be held at the luncheon to conduct the election.

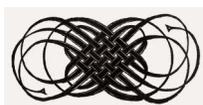
Sigler is currently FERPing in the Department of World Languages and Literature. She came to SJSU in 1987 and rapidly rose through the ranks to hold the highest of administrative positions, including Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs and Acting Interim President of the University. She also remains active in community organizations too numerous to mention here.

"ERFA is extremely fortunate that

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## In Memoriam

• **Dolores Spurgeon** (Journalism, '75) passed away on July 25, 2012 at the age of 97. Dolores was born and lived in the Santa Clara Valley all her life. She grew up on the family ranch of her Portuguese immigrant parents, John and Mary Freitas. She attended San Jose State as a student, becoming editor of the newly established Spartan Daily. She graduated with a BA in 1936, and after teaching high school for one year, took her MA from Stanford in 1940. She was hired to teach in the Journalism Dep't. at SJSC in 1938, where she remained until retiring in 1975. She was responsible for setting up the magazine writing and editing program there, and published Magazine Journalism as a Career for Women, in 1965. She also collaborated with Dwight Bentel in writing Stories of Santa Clara Valley (1942) and later, The First Fifty Years, a history of the SJSU Dep't of Journalism and Mass Communications (1987). She served on the Santa Clara Historical and Landmarks Commission from 1958-65, and her life was profiled in Stories Grandma Never Told: Portuguese Women in California. Her husband John Spurgeon preceded her in death, but she leaves behind numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family members.



• **Sebastian Cassarino** (Foreign Languages, '92) passed away peacefully on June 10, 2012, after a prolonged illness. Sebastian was born on October 8, 1928, in Paterson, NJ, to Sicilian parents who had come to the US in the 1920s. The Great Depression forced the family to return to Sicily

when Sebastian was two years old. After WW II, at the age of 19, he came back to the US and enrolled in City College of New York, knowing "only ten words of English at the time." He took his BA at CCNY in French and Italian, graduating magna cum laude. In 1953 he was drafted into the US Army, where he served as a photographer, and in 1956 enrolled at UC Berkeley where he earned his Ph.D in Romance Languages. He began teaching at Stanford in 1960, but switched to SJSU two years later, where, he said, "the pay was better and there was less pressure to publish." Although he published a short book on the town of Tricarico, Sicily, he saw himself primarily as a teacher. He was popular with students, who loved his outgoing, fun-loving personality and was equally a favorite among his colleagues, with whom he served on numerous committees in the university. He became Coordinator of International Programs at SJSU (1965-85) and also the Academic Escort for Travel-Study groups to Italy under Continuing Education. He played badminton every noon in the gymnasium, and often enjoyed beating younger, new colleagues, who, because of his short, rotund appearance, underestimated his quick reflexes. Upon retiring, he taught Italian at local community colleges and voluntarily taught for no money at SJSU when budget constraints threatened to eliminate the Italian language program. One group of students has continued meeting with him once a week for conversational Italian (at their various homes) from 1989 to the present. He also sat on the Executive Board of SJSU-ERFA for many years, serving as its official photographer. He leaves behind

his wife of 51 years, Nadine (they divorced and later remarried), two children and four grandchildren.



• **Sally (Sylvia) Ann Veregge (Biological Sciences, '10)** passed away on September 22, 2012. Sally was 66 years old, not yet retired, but a well-known, well-liked and highly-respected figure on campus. She was born and raised in Lodi, CA, attended UC Davis where she earned a BS and MS in Biology, then a BS in Nursing at CSU Fresno, and a Ph.D in Neuroscience at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX. After teaching high school and working as a medical/surgical nurse, she came to SJSU in 1984 where she quickly rose to the rank of professor and Chair of the Biological Sciences Dep't. Active on campus, she was also elected Chair of the Academic Senate. An innovative educator, she created interdisciplinary curricula, established a Masters Program in Biotechnology and a Clinical Laboratory Science Program which provided internships for students to do research while working closely with hospitals and clinics in the local area. She also worked with an organization called Expanding Your Horizons which served over 800 young girls every year to encourage them to pursue studies in science and engineering. She won numerous awards for outstanding teaching and organizational service, both on campus and in the community. Her strong spirit, dedication to working with and for others, and her trademark smile will be a warm and memorable part of the legacy she leaves to SJSU, to her family and countless friends.

## College to University. . .

Continued from Page 5

years this unit was a pale shadow of what it was to become when it was renamed the "Academic Senate." This was Robert Clark's achievement. He constantly exhorted the Senate to assume more meaningful powers, from symbolically having its Chair introduce the president at the annual address before the faculty, to having members of its executive committee participate with the president and his advisory body of administrators in discussing and deliberating the outstanding issues.

Foremost among these issues was the treatment of minorities, whose spokespersons made clear their resentment over the discrimination they experienced on and around campus. It was my suggestion, at an executive committee meeting, that an ombudsman be created

to help deal with this problem and President Clark not only accepted the idea but said he knew just the right person for the position: J. Benton White, an ordained minister who came onto the campus as its first Ombudsman. Further, Clark gave support to Tommie Smith and John Carlos, whose Black Power salute at the Olympic Games in Mexico unleashed a national and international controversy.

Finally, he encouraged the Academic Senate to enact a policy recommendation to allow a larger proportion of minority applicants to enter the college despite not being in the top one-third of eligible high school students. Prior to this, the only higher education facility such students were eligible to attend was a junior college. Clark's proposal was enacted and is now the pattern throughout the California State University system.

As a result of these and other policies, President Clark faced much opposition and a few lawsuits, but when he left five years later to assume the presidency at the University of Oregon, he could take pride in having accomplished much of what he set out to do. I believe SJSU is the better for these efforts to this day.

## Vice president selection

Continued from Page 6

Carmen is willing to become VP this year, which would also make her president-elect for the 2013-2014 academic year," says Dennis Wilcox, past president. "Her leadership skills and knowledge of the campus and the community will be extremely beneficial to the continued growth of SJSU-ERFA and its ability to serve its members," he added.

SJSU  
**ERFA**  
**News**

Newsletter of the Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

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