SJSU ERFA News, Fall 2013

San Jose State University, Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

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

Recommended Citation
San Jose State University, Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association, "SJSU ERFA News, Fall 2013" (2013). Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association (ERFA) Newsletter. Paper 22.
https://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/erfa/22

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.
Retrofitting and renovation

New Student Union sweeps in with dramatic design

By Gene Bernardini

The new Student Union is well on its way to completion. Two new modern wings now sandwich the original building in a dramatic sweep from 7th St. all the way to 9th St. The interiors are currently being finished and have been aligned with the older building, which will soon undergo serious renovation and seismic retrofitting. This is slated to be completed by late Fall, 2014, and the New Student Union should be open by Spring, 2015. These dates are subject to change, however. The entire project has been dependent on everything from wet winter weather to the discovery of quirks and structural anomalies that have made integrating the buildings difficult.

So far it’s been almost three years since the groundbreaking began in late 2010, with the dramatic demolition of adjacent buildings (the Old Cafeteria, e.g.). Since then the Student Union continued to remain open and almost in full operation.

Finally, this summer, virtually all the student services have been moved out of the existing building and temporarily into modular offices across 9th St. The major services, the Dining Commons and Bookstore, are slated to move into the new western addition as soon as possible.

The total cost for the Renovation and Expansion of the Student Union has been $90 million. But no state taxes or general fund monies were used. Funding came instead from the sale of bonds held by the Chancellor’s Office, to be repaid through revenues generated by concerts, gym memberships, meeting space rentals and annual student fees. An increase in student fees for this project was proposed to SJSU students in 2006-07, and approved by them.

The expanded Union will include many things: a larger dining space with more options; an Internet Café and Lounge; a 300-seat Theatre & Lecture Hall; an

Continued on Page 7

Remembrance of Things Past

One member writes of tea with a Maasai elder and another of life with a famous artist father. See pages 3, 4 and 5 for memories from East Africa to Berkeley.

calendar

October 18, 2013
Fall Luncheon
The Flames
Speaker: Diane Guerrazzi

November 4, 2013
Private Library Tour
ML King Library
See Page 10

December 6, 2013
Holiday Celebration
ML King Library, Rms 225-29
Eventful Summer

By Peter Buzanski (History)
All my columns last year began with budgetary concerns, every one that will not be repeated this year. As a result of the passage of Proposition 30, the Legislature and the Governor managed to reinstate $250 million from the $1 billion that had been removed last year. The CSU budget for 2013-14 is $2.3 billion.
The reinstatement included a 10% tuition rollback, which is pending Roseville this Fall, 2013, and a very modest salary increase to faculty and staff. There had been no compensation increases for faculty in the past seven years. However, this budgetary increase contains some negative aspects. All future salary increases, with their higher benefit costs—a hefty sum—which hitherto had been appropriated as a separate supplement by the Legislature, will now be buried in the overall CSU budget. Also, future budget allocations will be tied to a number of outcome measures such as increases in student retention, graduation, and time for achieving the chosen degree.
Since 1960, when the CSU system was created, I have served under every CSU Chancellor. Except for the first one, Buell Gallagher, who lasted only six months before he resigned, there has been no chancellor who could be described as academically oriented and favorably disposed to faculty. Now, there is a new CSU Chancellor, Timothy White, who appeared at an open forum on campus at the beginning of this semester. His answer to the first question I asked him was, "Why me?" His Chair of the English Department, suggests that the CSU no longer has a very different administrator. Engell asked White whether his attitude toward the faculty would continue to be like that of the previous chancellor, whose attitude Engell described as "Condescending, Confrontational and Contemptuous." White responded with an autobiographical account. He said that he himself was an immigrant, having come from Argentina, the first in his family to achieve a college education. All his undergraduate education took place in California and included a community college, two CSU campuses—one of which was San José State, the other, Hayward State—and a doctorate from UC Berkeley. He offered enough details to leave the faculty audience, at least the ones with whom I discussed his presentation, with the optimistic impression that he understands and is sympathetic to faculty.
Another helpful note to report is the remarkable increase in the academic performance of SJSU’s student-athletes. In 2006, none of our sports attained the required scores of 925, based on several factors computed by the NCAA. However, for the academic year 2011-12, every sport in which SJSU participated had a score considerably above that minimum of 925 (which this year was raised to 930). Some scores were as high as 989 and 990, the lowest being Men’s basketball at 940. In addition, the NCAA is pushing every college to have its athletes achieve a cumulative Grade Point Average of 3.0 over a four year period. In 2011-12 the SJSU score was 2.969.
Last semester a controversy erupted regarding Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). Despite protests, these courses were offered, but have been postponed for this fall semester, to be resumed in Spring, 2014. Meanwhile a thorough study is being made to learn what worked and what did not. From these lessons it is hoped that when MOOCs are reintroduced, improvements will be implemented, students will improve their academic performance and the criticism may diminish. Pragmatists agree that MOOCs are here to stay. The following quotation was sent to every SJSU employee: "Effective August 12, 2013, the Disability Resource Center (DRC) will have a new name—the Accessible Resource Center (DRC)." Despite protests, these courses were offered, but have been postponed for this fall semester, to be resumed in Spring, 2014. Meanwhile a thorough study is being made to learn what worked and what did not. From these lessons it is hoped that when MOOCs are reintroduced, improvements will be implemented, students will improve their academic performance and the criticism may diminish. Pragmatists agree that MOOCs are here to stay.

African Travels, or is it ‘Travails’?

By Bob Gliner (Sociology)
In 1990, with connections on the ropes, I decided to produce a documentary on what image America had to the rest of the world, since we were ostensibly the only role model left. The documentary, which I would later call America Promises, led me on my first trip to Africa, to Arusha, Tanzania, near Mt. Kilimanjaro. I had just come from a trip to Northwest Pakistan where I had been interviewing members of the newly formed, post-Soviet-era governments, to find out what they planned to do next. This was all part of what in retrospect would be a series of films I would make on the transition from socialism to capitalism in various parts of the world (Russia, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Cuba). I specifically visited Africa to take a look at poverty there and the role the U.S. could potentially play in its eradication. I thought this might offer Americans a sense of purpose beyond the defeat of the evil empire—or buying a new wardrobe at Macy’s. One of the poorest tribal groups in this part of the world is the Maasai, the tall, dignified, red-robe-wearing warriors who walk around with spears and who appear in many American films usually associated with gun hunting, safaris, Ernest Hemingway and Robert Redford. The Maasai, a nomadic people, had gradually lost the ability to graze their cattle on fertile soil, since registering ownership and staying put were not the way they did business. As a result, they ultimately ended up with land no one else wanted: dry, disease-ridden, and far from good sources of water. For those of you familiar with California, think Barstow. In Tanzania, I asked around and found a Maasai who spoke passable English and who would take me to the village of his birth, one largely untouched by Western culture. The Maasai are particularly averse to having their pictures taken, let alone being interviewed, and the village I was going to had seen few if any Western visitors. I was asked to donate $100 worth of food to enable the interviews to take place.
Early the next morning we set out by jeep along a two lane highway. After about twenty miles the jeep turned off the road onto a barren expanse where we drove for several more miles with no road markings whatsoever. We arrived at the small village, (the Maasai call them Bomas), which contained several mud huts surrounded by a six-foot high thatched fence to protect against lions. The village was comprised of several related families and, judging by the children who barely made an attempt to brush aside us,
Continued from Page 1
Continued on Page 5
Life with Father: A Daughter’s Memoir

By Natalie Schutz (Retired teacher, wife of Fred Schutz [English], and the daughter of David Park, well-known 20th century American artist.)

David—that’s my sister and I called him all our lives—grew up in the Back Bay of Boston, the son of a Unitarian minister. His family summered in New Hampshire and, as a result, New England’s leafy countryside and Boston’s brick buildings both became themes in David’s work. Musical themes show up also, for he played classical piano since boyhood, and then jazz in the 1940s and ’50s.

David left New England at the age of seventeen for California, to become a painter. Arriving in the Bay Area, he befriended a young sculptor, Gordon Newell, and both began to work at their art. At age 20 David married Gordon’s sister Lydia, called “Deedee.” The young couple soon had two little girls, me and my younger sister Helen. We grew up in Berkeley, where David taught art, and where, at the end of his life, he became a member of the Art Department at UC, with no high school diploma and no college.

As far back as Junior High, people would say to my sister or me—“Oh, you’re David Park’s little girl—do you paint?” We didn’t. We drew during recess. Our own father, who knew from the beginning that he wanted to be an artist, we had no such focus. We’ve spent much more time trying to understand that astonishing sense of inner-direction David had. Deedee’s brother, Gordon, said, “Here I was, struggling to become a painter and...
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 genebernard@comcast.net or by snail mail at 775 Seawood Way, San Jose, CA 95120.

We Need Your Help
ERFA members, we are eager to hear stories from your past. Our Newsletter’s Reminiscences are specifically designed for that purpose. We want to read about your life-experiences, whether funny, sad, poignant or ridiculous—anything you found interesting and memorable (500 to 750 words). Send them to the editor, whose address is at the top of this page. Please.

Paul Betten (Elementary Ed, ’86) remains active in The Villages community at age 91. “I still sing with the Village Voices and the local church choir. And I still continue to get requests from Villagers for woodworking repair projects.”

Patricia Burns (widow of Bert Burns, Acting Pres., SJSU, ’69-70) lives at The Terraces in Los Gatos, and enjoys visiting with her sister, Katherine, who also lives there. She says “O’D the cat is still spoiled, has a VERY set routine and is doted upon by me and my wonderful caregivers, Nellie and Linda.”

John Canario (English, ’83) and his wife Penny took a canal boat trip, exploring the Netherlands and enjoyed the company of other traveling seniors. But he “discovered that canal boating is not ideal for us because I have a heart valve problem that prevents me from keeping up with brisk walkers.”

Hi-Dong Choi (Electrical Engineering, ’02) just completed a memoir in which he details how his Korean family was shattered by events during the Japanese invasion in WW II and those of the following Korean War. His father, a Christian minister, was imprisoned following Korean War. His father, a Christian minister, was imprisoned following Korean War. His father, a Christian minister, was imprisoned following Korean War.

Tom Layton (Anthropology, ’00) suggests that our ERFA dues should have an option for donating collected monies to benefit SJSU. He says, “We all have gold plated ERFA retirements and I suspect many of us would be willing to donate.”

Irene Daniels Lewis (Nursing ’10) attended the 25th International Council of Nursing in Melbourne, Australia, from May 16-23. She was a representative of the National Black Nurses Association.

Ada Loewer (widow of Bob Loewer, Marketing, ’89) continues to volunteer at the Lace Museum in Sunnyvale. She also makes cards and other items for the San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles for their store at 520 S. First St., San Jose.

Mike McIntyre (Foreign Languages, ’89), who is also in her nineties, says “I have now retired from competing on the trampoline in the 90+ category as the reigning champ in that Division last year. Loving Hawaii!”

We Need Your Help
ERFA members, we are eager to hear stories from your past. Our Newsletter’s Reminiscences are specifically designed for that purpose. We want to read about your life-experiences, whether funny, sad, poignant or ridiculous—anything you found interesting and memorable (500 to 750 words). Send them to the editor, whose address is at the top of this page. Please.

Continued from Page 1

New Student Union centers campus community

The building’s purpose is to create a more campus-centered community to counterbalance the commuter-oriented experience at SJSU. More students are now living on or around campus. The new SU is designed to provide them with an enhanced social environment. Andrew Wagleigh of the Student Union, Inc., points out that the current SU is not serving students’ needs adequately. He says, “Many programs and events that take place here are too big for the Barrett Ballroom, but too small for the Event Center. This forces groups off campus where they spend more money and don’t get the experience they deserve. Our campus dining options have been limited by the SU’s 40-year-old kitchen, and students have limited space to congregate socially indoors on campus. There are very few safe, local, after-hours entertainment options for students that don’t include drinking downtown.” For these reasons, he believes “the new SU can and will invigorate campus life here at SJSU and make the university better for everybody who works, studies, lives and plays on campus.”
In Memoriam

Lila Gonzalez-Garfinkel (Mexican American Studies) died peacefully on June 16, 2013, at the age of 84. A line from one of her poems seems apropos: “In the end, night came quietly, swiftly, gently.” Born in Mexico City in 1929, Lila immigrated with her family to the US in 1944. Something of a Renaissance woman, she was at turns a ballet dancer, a chemist, a writer, poet, landscape designer and an accomplished cook. Lila earned a BS in Chemistry, worked at Dupont Corp., then changed course and took an MA in Spanish Literature at Stanford. She became Asst Prof at UC Berkeley and served as Dean of Chicano Studies. In 1965 she returned to Stanford for her Ph.D in Spanish Literature and began teaching at SJSU in the Mexican American Graduate Studies Program. Lila was politically active throughout her life. She served on Gov. Brown’s Environmental Task Force for ABAG, was an advocate for immigrant rights at the UN in Geneva and worked for the inclusion of ethnic studies in university curricula in three different states. She did all this while raising five children. She met and married “the love of her life,” Martin Garfinkel in 1956, who preceded her in death in 2001. She leaves behind three grandchildren, whose sports activities and three great grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Robert Gordon (English/ Humanities, ’87) passed away on July 17, 2013 at the age of 91. He was born in Melbourne, Australia in 1921 and moved with his family to Norfolk, Virginia, where his father served as minister for the United Church of Christ. Bob grew up as an accomplished classical pianist and majored in music at UNC, Chapel Hill. Thoughts of a concert career were cut short by Pearl Harbor. He served in the US Navy as Lieutenant JG on two ships, the USS Helena and the USS Quincy. The Helena was sunk in the Battle of the Solomon Islands and Bob was rescued from an enemy-held island. He returned to the States and married Jean Swan in Dec., 1943. Returning to battle on the Quincy, he took part in the D-Day naval bombardment at Omaha Beach, and then was sent back to the Pacific where his ship was part of the fleet that present in the Japanese surrender.

Bob attended Harvard on the GI Bill, where he earned his Ph.D in English literature. He took his first job at the Univ. of Oregon, and there became a naturalized citizen of the US. He came to SJSU in 1957 and taught in both the English and Humanities departments. He became an internationally recognized scholar on Sir Walter Scott. When he retired in ‘87, he moved to Connecticut, where he and Jean, an accomplished artist, became part of the local community. They summers at Jean’s family home in East Boothbay, Maine, overlooking an old mill pond, where friends from San Jose were encouraged to visit. (See Nils Peterson’s accompanying poem, reflecting on his experiences at that site.) With his lifelong interest in music, Bob sang in the church choir and accompanied the choir during services. He was a charter member of the American Scandinavian Society, was an active member of the City of San Jose Parks and Recreation Dept., as well as in state and national Parks and Recreation associations. He and his wife, Jean, retired to The Villages in 2007, where he enjoyed himself watching football and doting on his three grandchildren, whose sports activities he always attended. A memorial service will be held for him at The Villages on Sunday, October 6, from 2-4 pm. Please RSVP his daughter Brenda at bbettaglio@comcast.net as soon as possible.

Continued from Page 8 attended every concert and opera he could. Despite the increasing infirmities of age, he continued his scholarly researches with the help of a magnifying glass and reading machine. His last book, Arms and the Imagination, was published when he was 88. He was predeceased by his daughter and his wife, Jean, whose death occurred less than three months before his.

Paul Brown (Recreation & Leisure Studies, ’07) passed away on July 29, 2013. Born in the small town of Effington, IL, he contracted polio as a boy, and had to relearn how to walk. In time he became a star football player who married his life-long partner, Patricia, the high school cheerleader and homecoming queen. Paul came to SJSU in 1964 after earning his BA and MA degrees from Southern Illinois University and his doctorate from UC Berkeley. He served as chair of the Dept. of Recreation and Leisure Studies for 17 years and worked extensively in University administration. He retired from the Office of the Provost, where he served as Vice Provost and special assistant to four provosts, as well as assistant to the Dean of Faculty. In addition, he served as an associate dean and then interim dean in the College of Applied Arts and Sciences. Paul co-authored a book on the need for recreation in urban settings and sat on local community college boards where he pushed for the inclusion of curricula still in existence today. He spent most summers as a camp director or park ranger, was active with the City of San Jose Parks and Recreation Dept., as well as in state and national Parks and Recreation associations. He and his wife, Jean, retired to the Villages in 2007, where he enjoyed himself watching football and doting on his three grandchildren, whose sports activities and he always attended. A memorial service will be held for him at The Villages on Sunday, October 6, from 2-4 pm. Please RSVP his daughter Brenda at bbettaglio@comcast.net as soon as possible.

Clifford Johnson (Library, ’89) passed away on August 21, 2013, at the age of 89. Cliff was born in Rock Island, IL, to Swedish immigrant parents. An avid reader as a child, he seemed destined to be a librarian. After two years in the Air Force in WW II, he attended Augustana College where he earned his BA, then took his Masters in Library Science at Columbia University in NYC. He worked in several library associations, the Ford Foundation (’55-66), the Roosevelts (’65-73), and taught in the Jewish Studies Program. On campus he avidly promoted and taught in the Jewish Studies program. He was scholarly and thoughtful, warm and friendly, with a soft voice and ready laugh. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis Koestenbaum, and four stepchildren. He is also survived by his former wife, Roselle, and their daughter Rachell.

Aaron Goldman (History) died peacefully on September 5, 2013, after a long bout with Parkinson’s disease. He was born to immigrant parents from Belarus in 1938. He graduated from CUNY in 1959 and received his Ph.D from Indiana University (Bloomington) in 1969. After brief stints teaching in Greenland and the Azores for the University of Maryland (Overseas Division), he came to SJSU in 1967. His early work in Russian Studies soon gave way to a broader interest in modern European history. In the 60s he took part in civil rights activities and was an officer in the NAACP. On campus he avidly promoted and taught in the Jewish Studies program. He was scholarly and thoughtful, warm and friendly, with a soft voice and ready laugh. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis Koestenbaum, and four stepchildren. He is also survived by his former wife, Roselle, and their daughter Rachell.
The faculty and staff of the M. L. King Jr., Library has created a very special tour of the Library for members of SJSU-ERFA. It will take place at 1 pm, on November 4, 2013. The tour offers us a rare opportunity to view the inner workings of the library and to interact informally with its faculty and staff. Our members will have a chance to speak with them about library projects and visit the book sorting areas to learn how books move through the library, from receiving, cataloging, processing, and finally back to the shelf. As we visit the data center, we will learn about the technology necessary to keep the library on the cutting edge. We will explore the climate-controlled vaults in the Special Collections unit, housing the Cultural Heritage Center, the Steinbeck and Beethoven Centers and the California Room, and will take a peek into the security offices. Finally, to end the day, we will join the staff for coffee and a sweet treat in the Dean’s Board Room. This is a unique opportunity to view our tremendous library. The tour will take approximately 2 hours. Please wear comfortable walking shoes and meet at the library information area. (For more information contact Sabra Diridon 408-924-1510.) An RSVP is required by October 28 to Marian Yoder at 408-842-6292 or yoderdm@garlic.com. You won’t want to miss this.