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SJSU ERFA News, Spring 2014

San Jose State University, Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

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Special Event Outing

The Cantor Arts Center at Stanford

By Don Keesey (English)

Our spring excursion this year will take us to the Stanford campus where we will have a docent-guided tour of the Cantor Arts Center. The Center’s permanent collections are impressive. They include two large rooms of pre-twentieth-century European and American art and several galleries devoted to modern art, with an emphasis on Bay Area artists. The Center also has galleries with Asian, African, Oceanic, and Native-American art. And to the side of the museum there is the renowned Rodin sculpture garden. In addition to the permanent collection, the Center will be showing several special exhibitions, including “American Photographs: A Cultural History” and on the day of our visit, a new exhibition intriguingly titled “Inside Rodin’s Hands: Art, Technology, and Surgery.”

The guided tour is scheduled for April 9, at 1 p.m. We can enjoy lunch at the Center’s “Cool Café” overlooking the Rodin sculptures. But the café has limited seating, so plan to get there when it opens at 11. We won’t have a bus this time, but we can provide free parking for those who sign up for the tour. Reservations are required. See the enclosed flyer for details.

Ming Buddha, Bronze

Call for nominations

Our Spring Luncheon on Friday, May 9, 2014, doubles as our annual Business Meeting. That is when we elect our officers for the upcoming year. We have both elective offices and appointive positions that are open to members interested in serving our organization. The elective offices to be filled this year are: Vice President (to serve as President in the 2015-16 year), Treasurer (a two-year term), Academic Senate Representative and two Members-at-Large.

In addition, our nominating committee will recommend to the Board appointments to the following positions: Membership, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, Consultations, Activities, Archivist, and CSU-ERFA Representative.

If you would like to be a candidate for any of these positions, please email Gene Bernardini (gee-bernard@comcast.net) for details. The deadline is April 19.

Has your email address changed?

ERFA’s email list notifies members of upcoming ERFA events and news items related to ERFA members and SJSU. Carol Christensen noticed that a few of the email addresses in the Directory are incorrect. If you have email and do not receive a copy of this newsletter via email, please send your correct email address to chrwolf@pacbell.net.
That's the Holiday spirit!

Photos by Dennis Wilcox

Enjoying the Holiday Celebration at the MLK Library last December are (right) Natalie and Fred Schutz; (middle) Dolores Escobar-Hamilton, Pat Daoud and Mary Lou White; (bottom) Rob Moore and Gene Bernardini; Carmen Sigler and Dick Ellefsen.
Junior High School Memories

By Lois Rew (English)

Two teachers from my Lincoln Junior High years in Illinois remain in my memory: both were a little weird, and perhaps the more memorable for that.

Miss Neil Barton Hall was the teacher for our required seventh-grade Foods class, where we girls learned how to cook. (The boys had required shop classes.) The classroom was furnished like a science lab with cooking stations, each with a sink, gas burners and a preparation counter. Four girls, each in white bib aprons and hairnets (hairnets) cooked at one station. We were to learn how to set a table, plan a meal and prepare the food.

However, we spent most of our time scrubbing, washing, cleaning and watching Miss Hall battle dirt, ordinary germs and exotic pathogens that she thought were about to take over the classroom. We had to scrub our sinks with a cork and scouring powder, and we had to wipe them off, and then interpose a tissue between her hand and the offending object. We noted, with some relief, that Miss Hall retired in the spring of 1949. She now could take her battle against germs to her own home.

My eighth grade English teacher was Miss Rudolph (Miss “Minette” Rudolph, I just discovered from the yearbook). In that year our curriculum concentrated on grammar, and Miss Rudolph tackled grammar with delight. “Now class” she would begin, tapping a 12-inch ruler in her left hand, “today we will learn the prepositions. Open your books to page 72. There, do you see the list of prepositions? Good, Pay close attention, please. We are going to read them aloud today. Then you are to memorize them. Each day as we begin class, we will recite them together.”

She would pull her sturdy wooden desk chair to the chalkboard and then, to our astonishment, clamber up on the chair. Ruler in hand, she’d turn to face us, lifting the ruler like a conductor’s baton. “Ready?

Together now: About, Above, Across, After, Against, Along, Among, Around, At, Before, Behind, Below, Beneath . . . . “ With each word came the downbeat, then a swoop to the side; word by word, she conducted us like a choir. Every day we repeated those prepositions until they burrowed their way into our very souls. Then we learned the coordinate conjunctions “And, But, Or . . . .”

We ached to snicker, but dared not, for Miss Rudolph’s temper was legendary. Our nickname for Miss Rudolph was “Piano Legs,” and by climbing on her chair, she exposed those legs for all to see. Poor Miss Rudolph: we made her such a target of our jokes.

Now years too late, I offer her an apology and a thank you. The apology is for not understanding that I was learning useful stuff, for those lists of prepositions and conjunctions have stayed in my memory. I still recite them at will, and for many years I riffled through the list to determine if that word I saw on the page was indeed a preposition.

The thank you is also for this story. All during my 27-year career as a college professor, I taught writing classes, and for 15 of those years I was an editing specialist. Writing and editing demand excellent grammar, and grammar includes prepositions, and teaching about prepositions always led me to this story.

While I never made my students memorize the prepositions, I always told them about Miss Rudolph and how she conducted our recitations. They laughed. But they also remembered the story, which helped them remember the prepositions.
**Chat Room . . .**

Special news from and about our members.
Edited by Gene Bernardini

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- **Cindy Margolin** (Psych/Undergrad Studies, ‘04) and friend Donna Zeller of online dating site Match.com recommended the old Silk Road through the remote Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in northwestern China. The area is bordered by the various “stans” (Afghanistan, Tajikistan, etc.), as well as Mongolia and the Taklamakan Desert. This Muslim-dominated culture was unlike anything either of us had ever seen in our previous trips to China,” she writes. “Lots of delicious lamb and yogurt, camels, ancient Buddhist caves, desert-preserved “mummies,” bearded men, beautiful head-scarved women and gorgeous children.

- **Betty Auchard** (widow of Denny Auchard, Education) is almost finished with her third manuscript, entitled Living with 12 Men. It’s about her experiences as a house mother to a dozen boys at York College (a Christian school in Nebraska) where she and Denny were supervisors the first year he began teaching. A young bride, she was about the same age as the boys she was in charge of and has some memories of that time. Today she remains busy speaking “to any organization that wants me” and loves it. Her second husband, Thea, has moved into the Merrill Gardens Retirement Community in Campbell.

- **Vida Kenk** (Biology, ’06) and her husband Bill became grandparents for the first time last April. Though they continue to live near their former home in the Sierra at 5000 feet, they happily come down to the Bay Area more often to visit their daughter’s family.

- **Benton White** (Religious Studies, ‘92) and his wife, Mary Lou, spent two weeks in France last year, visiting places they always wanted to see. Besides traveling, Benton plays golf four times a week and they both keep busy with various meetings, visiting grandchildren in Sacramento and enjoying lunches with friends. Still in good health, they feel lucky to be able to experience “the good things old age makes possible, particularly the ERFA events which bring us in touch with our SJSU family.”

- **Tikey Zes** (Music, ’91) is proud to announce that he has reached his 86th birthday this past year and is still active in Greek Orthodox Church work. Three months ago, in November, 2013, a new disc of his choral work, The Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom, was re-issued. He published his original composition Let’s Make Sense of Algebra, which sounds like a book title we all could benefit from, it’s available through amazon.com.

- **J. Michael Sproule** (Communication Studies, ‘01) and his wife Betty recently published their self-help book called The Stuff Cure: How We Lost 8000 Pounds of Stuff for Fun, Profit and Virtue and a Better World. It too is available on amazon.com.

- **Rob Moore** (Applied Arts & Sciences, ’83) after the loss of his dear wife, Thea, has moved into the Merrill Gardens Retirement Community in Campbell.

- **Carol Mukhopadhyay** (Anthropology, ’11) finished a manuscript for the Second Edition of How Real is Real: A Sourcebook on Race, Culture and Biology (with SJSU’s Rosemary Henze and Yolanda Moses). She also took trips to Finland, Russia, and the Baltics; then Florida and Cuba (through Global Exchange). She also has been doing lots of Chamber Music playing.

- **Jill Steinberg** (Undergrad Studies, ’07) started a website that documents her success in retirement: MyRetirementWorks. com. “You can find out why so many people say ‘these are the best years of my life’. Go there to join the conversation, read stories and see the latest research.

- **Jack Haeger** (English, ’98) passed away on December 22, 2013, after a massive heart attack. He was stricken in Mexico where he had lived for 37 years, Janice Patten, owned a home, and died a few days later in a San Diego hospital. Jack was born in Detroit, MI, in 1936 and earned his BA in English in 1965 and his PhD in 1971 at the Univ. of Washington. His field of study was English Romanticism, with a special focus on Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Jack published book reviews for the journal Romanticism, Past and Present and several articles on the Romantic poets. He began teaching at SJSU in 1979 and in 1988 was Chair of the English Dep’t., serving for ten years. He also chaired the Professional Standards Committee of the Academic Senate. Jack was something of a renaissance man with many diverse interests. He was an automobile aficionado who calculated he had owned 57 different cars over his lifetime, most of which he kept running because he was possessed of great mechanical ability from others. He was a stalwart handy man who had enough tools and knowhow to fix almost anything around a house. In addition, he loved biking and hiking, often traversing the Lake Country in England while attending Wordsworth Conferences there. After retiring, he became an inveterate bridge player who participated in tournaments and helped organize the American Contract Bridge League in Baja, California. He was actually playing bridge when he was stricken with cancer and taken back wards in his chair. He is survived by his wife, Jan, his daughter, Kim, and three children, Marc, Ted and Anita, from a previous marriage.

- **Carol Anne Smith Haws** (Dance) died in Farr West, Utah, on January 14, 2014, at the age of 80. Carol attended Pasadena City College, Brigham Young University, the Univ. of Utah and UCLA, where she earned her Masters degree in Dance. She was married and divorced twice, but remarried her second husband, Lavon Haws, who now survives her. Carol taught dance at SJSU for 27 years, directing and choreographing many shows at the University. She also was active in various community theaters throughout the Bay Area. Carol was a lifelong member of the Mormon Church and directed the annual Oakland Temple Pageant four times. She leaves behind seven children, 27 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren.

- **Stephen French** (Art & Design, ’98) passed away on February 4, 2014, after a brief illness. He was born in Seattle, WA, in 1936, where he grew up and later taught, as well as at universities in Wisconsin and the Bay Area. Steve was a noted visual artist whose works have been shown throughout the US and in England. His prints, paintings and sculptures are in collections at both the San Francisco and San Jose Museums of Art, as well as at the Universiti es of Oklahoma, Wisconsin and the University of the Pacific. He is known for his abstract works reflecting the poetry, music and humor with which he surrounded himself. He described himself as “an undeconstructed, unreformed modernist.”

At SJSU, Steve became Professor of Art and Chairman of the Art Dep’t., and served as Assoc. Dean and Acting Dean of the School of Humanities and Arts. He also was Chair of the SJ Fine Arts Commission and sat on the Board of Truste es of the SJ Art Museum. Steve loved life, literature (especially poetry), music, film and good conversation. He had a strong voice and loved to sing, often announcing his arrival with a tune—a WW II ditty, a folk song, an aria or something from an operetta or an American musical. After retiring, he continued with his art projects and most recently was working on a series of darkly beautiful gentian flowers. He is survived by his artist wife, Wanda Waldiera, and his children, Sandy, Ken, Kathy and Elly.

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Ken Blasé (Journalism/Mass Communications, ‘01) passed away on or about February 20, 2014, in Cannas, Washington, where he has been living since retirement. He was 78 and had a history of heart problems. Before coming to SJSU, Ken had been a 24-hour local news format anchor in San Francisco and San Jose and a local anchor on radio when the 24-hour local news format took off in the 1970s. He then left radio to join the broadcast journalism faculty at SJSU. He completed law school while working toward tenure, and later became Department Chair and then Director of the School of Journalism and Mass Communications. He also served as Assoc. Dean of the College of Applied Sciences and Arts. He is survived by his wife Judith, who hopes to organize a memorial service for him in San Jose on April 26, 2014, for his many friends and colleagues in the area. That day will mark the 55th wedding anniversary of what she described as “a fairy tale life together.”

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**In Memoriam**
Chat Room

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• **Embert Hendrickson** (History, ‘97) and his wife, Linda, traveled to Virginia in December to visit their son, Noel, and his wife. Noel took his undergraduate degree at SJSU and is now Assoc. Prof. and Director of the Institute for National Security Analysis at James Madison University. While in VA, the Hendricksons traveled to various historical sites. They also were pleased to learn they’ll become first-time grandparents this coming May.

University and Academic Senate Report

**“Enhanced Turmoil”**

Continued from Page 2

the campus community, students, administrators and faculty, as well as off-campus personnel. But the teaching faculty have virtually no opportunity to serve on the task force because the schedule prescribed by the administration interferes with teaching responsibilities. Meanwhile, the meetings of Judge Cordell’s group are open and are being streamed to achieve maximum transparency.

Finally, concerning “Hybrid and Online Courses and Programs,” I am delighted to report that President Q has signed the policy recommendation passed by the Senate in Spring, 2013. This policy seeks to assure that the content of hybrid and online courses has the same learning objectives, quality and outcomes as classroom instruction courses.