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SJSU ERFA News, Summer 2014

San Jose State University, Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

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President’s Message
On “Graduations”

By Carmen Sigler

As my term as ERFA President comes to an end, I am approaching another “graduation.” On Saturday, May 24th, I will be attending the San Jose State Commencement ceremony. Throughout the years, I have loved being part of the celebration and, invariably, I have been moved to tears watching the joy of the graduates and the pride reflected in the faces of their parents, family and friends. This year, however, it will be doubly moving for me since I will have the honor of attending my “last Commencement” as representative of the Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association. As we celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates on that day, I will reflect on what teaching has meant to me and I will think of all of you. You will be there with me and I will remember your many contributions to this great institution to which you have devoted your lives. Reflecting on the past few months with our association, I feel so grateful for the opportunity to reconnect with dear colleagues and, most importantly, the pleasure of serving with an outstanding group of Executive Board members. All of them are extraordinarily dedicated to our organization and they have made my task as President easy and enjoyable. Thank you for your trust in me. It has been a singular honor and an enormous pleasure.

Remembrance of Things Past

Is it possible for a family van to become a member of the family? Or if you thought Margaret Dumont got herself in a fix in Duck Soup, read what happened to Benny McCreath. Answers on Pages 4 and 5.

Jazz at the Spring Luncheon

Calendar

Friday, October 24, 2014
Fall Luncheon
Mariani’s Restaurant
(Speaker TBA)

Date to be Announced
Holiday Celebration
MLK Library, Rms. 225-229
(Mailer to follow)
University and Academic Senate Report

Change: The Positive and the Negative

By Peter Buzanski (History)

Visit the Campus after even a short time period and you will be impressed by all the new construction. The Student Union expansion, extending to Seventh Street, now contains the Spartan Book Store on the corner. Although the book store features attractive merchandizing on ground floor, with all text books upstairs, it’s strictly temporary; the Men’s Gymnasium expansion is expected to be completed by spring 2015. Perhaps even more spectacular is the immense building currently under construction across from the Event Center on the corner of 7th Street and San Carlos. That building will house the Health Center and the Counseling Unit, and is slated to be functional by winter, 2015. Finally, the Men’s Gymnasium expansion is expected to be completed by spring 2015. Meeting the Event Center prompts me to relate that my wife and I were part of a crowd of over 6,000 to hear Hillary Rodham Clinton speak on women’s issues. She dealt with the inequalities that continue to confront women—even in Silicon Valley where only a tiny number of women head its many conglomerates. Her speech was enthusiastically received by an audience considered by a majority of white women and few people of color. We spotted a few SJSU-ERAFA members.

Another positive change is the appointment of SJSU’s new Provost and Academic Vice President, Andrew Hale Feinstein. He began as deputy provost in July 2013 and has now been appointed as the new Provost, following Eisgruber who left for CSU/Dominguez Hills. There are less cheerful topics to report. The alleged racially-motivated attack on an African-American student in the Campus Village dormitory brought forth the filing of a five million dollar claim against the University. Before this claim was filed, President Qayoumi’s “Task Force on Racial Discrimination” headed by retired Judge LaDoris Cordell also released its report with 33 recommendations. The President accepted the recommendations and Provost Feinstein said he would immediately begin implementing them. However, Feinstein warned that many require funds and there is no budget provision to deal with these issues. When asked about the funds, the President claimed there are emergency funds available which he believes may be sufficient to deal adequately with some of the recommendato ns. (Readers interested in reading the recommendations can do so by going online.)

The matter of expenses confronts one immediately in light of the Committee’s recommendations. It asks for the appointment of an experienced vice President with direct access to the President to deal with diversity. It also recommends a nation-wide search for a vice President of Student Affairs with experience in diversity and racial issues. Meanwhile, Bill Nance, SJSU’s current Vice President for Student Affairs, has been a Campus administrator in a variety of top level positions for the past fifteen years, announced his desire to return to his teaching position in the College of Business. You may recall our previous discussion of the campus issues that brought the CSU Chancellor to “undertake a prompt review of SJSU governance.” The Chancellor’s three-person committee submitted its report to the Chancellor who then met with our Senate Executive Committee. Together they worked on an action plan which they released in the form of an Open Letter on May 8. President Qayoumi called the process “a sobering experience.” Several significant improvements are outlined, including an administrative reshuffling wherein the Provost and Academic Vice President takes precedence over the Vice President for Administration and Finance. In his response, President Qayoumi wrote, “it became evident . . . that faculty, staff and students became frustrated and angered by many of the fast-paced actions taken by me . . . in attempting to move quickly. I steered on long-standing consultation practices and . . . harmed our practice of collegial shared governance. For this I am regretful.”

Regarding student complaints about their Campus “Success Fee,” the President explained that the reason the fee was high is that last fall he had combined three separate fees that students normally paid into just one fee, believing that administrative and bookkeeping costs might be lowered. However, he promised the fees will again be divided into their three component parts, and he hoped they might be somewhat reduced. He did not address student complaints that too large a portion of the fees is devoted to Intercollegiate Athletics. My survey of faculty Senators’ comments continued on page 8.

In Memoriam

• Anne Murany (Occupational Therapy) died at her home in Yorba Linda, Aug. 30, 2013, at the age of 96. Anne was born and raised in Chicago, but moved to Washington, D.C., where she attended Georgetown University while working for the Treasury Department. She decided to become an Occupational Therapist and came to SJSU where she took her Bachelor’s degree before going on for her Master’s at USC. She returned to become a professor of Occupational Therapy at SJSU and retired from the department. Upon retiring she moved to Sebastopol, where she remained active in her field and the community. She belonged to the Historical Society of Northern California, the Newcomers Club, the Genealogy Society and many others. Anne enjoyed traveling all over the world, until declining health forced her to stop, at which time she moved to Yorba Linda to be near family members. She is survived by a brother, three sisters and several nieces and nephews.

• Rebecca Herrold (Music, ’05) passed away after a long illness on May 5, 2014, at the age of 75. Born in Warren, PA, Rebecca began her musical education at the age of five and became an accomplished pianist. She won a scholarship to the Univ. of Miami, graduating from there with a BA in Music in 1969. She married a fellow music student, cellist Steven Herrold, and they shared their love of music for the next 54 years. She taught music at all school levels in Florida, Georgia, Colorado and California. She completed her MA at SJSU in 1969 and took her Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Stanford in 1974. She taught for a time at Oregon State, then returned to SJSU for 25 years, becoming the head of Music Education. She authored two college textbooks, Mastering the Fundamentals of Music and Elementary Classroom Music. She is survived by her husband and a sister.
We bought it used and drove it heartily for more than ten years. Lou and I were still together when we bought it, and it suited our summer trips to Yosemite with Bret and Will, who were something like thirteen and six at the time. It was a well-used Dodge Van with a roof that popped up, revealing two hammock-like beds. That was where the boys slept; the table and seats below flattened to make a large parking lot nearby that was the so-called park with Will, we strolled by R.V.s that looked ready to move, but in the police station. The San Diego Zoo was of course there were surely many events—even escapes—on those weekends that I never heard about. But I did hear of one, a good one. In one of the small towns they always drove through on the way to and from Yosemite, a bank building had a side wall that tempted the four devoted rock climbers. The flat surface of the wall had randomly placed holes from the top to the bottom. On a late Sunday night, they decided to stop briefly and climb the bank wall. Suddenly the local police appeared and they were whisked off to the police station. They weren’t kept long and were soon on their way home again, making jokes, I imagine, about scary moments, not on the wall, but in the police station.

One last memory: it was early summer 1975 and I was driving the Van to Ohlone College in Fremont where I was to be interviewed for a temporary faculty position. Benny, fully dressed in a sport coat and tie, soon felt the heat inside the locker and began to perspire.

The conversation with my colleague, entering the office, decided to have some mischief fun. He opened one of the empty lockers and squeezed inside, intending to surprise his office mate when he returned and settled into his chair. Unfortunately, when his colleague arrived a few minutes later, he was accompanied by a student who had questions about his grade on a recent essay. Benny’s colleague sat the student down and the two of them began going over the essay in some detail.

The day was unusually hot and the metal fins were neither insulated, nor air-conditioned. Benny, dressed in a sport coat and tie, began to perspire. Unable to take the pressure anymore, he burst forth from the locker into the room. The two observers sat stunned, staring open-mouthed at the well-dressed professor who had just exploded into their midst. McCreath never told me what he said or did at that point, but it didn’t matter—the visual impact had to have been enough. I suspect that only a Grouchio Marx would have had a quip equal to that moment.
Special news from and about our members.
Edited by Gene Bernardini

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Chat Room

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visit friends, and just in time to watch SJSU play Michigan.

• **Phyllis Connally**, (Nursing, ’11) took part in an ACE/Sloan Project podcast interview last September. The subject: “Transitioning from full-time employment to full retirement.”

• **John Gruber** (Physics/Astronomy, ’05) remains active doing research at the Univ. of Texas, San Antonio. Since retiring, he’s published 25 journal articles and has recently authored a well-regarded text in photonics/physics: “Magneto-optical Spectroscopy of the Rare-Earth Components,” *Scientific Research*.

• **Elsie Leach** (English, ’94) remains active in outreach at St. Andrew’s United Methodist Church in Palo Alto. “I am also very interested in the education of my 5 grandchildren,” she writes.

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

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opinions about the Chancellor’s response uncovered a large amount of disappointment. Some Senators had wanted to see a change in the top administration at SJSU, with at least two departures; yet most Senators understood that the Chancellor’s actions, which must be supported by the Board of Trustees, was unique, since no similar action has ever been undertaken by a Chancellor since the system came into being in 1962.

University and Academic Senate Report

**Change**