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Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association  
(ERFA) Newsletter

The SJSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty  
Association

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Fall 2015

## **SJSU ERFA News, Fall 2015**

San Jose State University, Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

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SJSU

ERFA

# News

Travel Adventures 

Three of our colleagues share with us some unusual experiences in exotic places. See pages 4-5.

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

## President's Message

# Supporting and appreciating our University Colleagues

By Jo Bell Whitlatch

As President for 2015-2016, I am honored to provide leadership in order to continue the many wonderful programs of SJSU-ERFA. I know that our very active Board will continue its tradition of excellent planning of ERFA's programs and activities.

This year, we intend to continue awarding an ERFA Faculty Research and Creative Activity Award. Because funding for faculty development continues to be limited, we are delighted to support our University colleagues through this award.

Last year, we agreed to donate the SJSU ERFA archives (1985/86- ) to the King Library Special Collections and Archives. The Board worked to arrange this donation because the Library provides proper preservation conditions, on site assistance during scheduled hours, and a high level of collection security. The Archives are in the final stages of being processed. The state's Online Archives will soon display the contents of our SJSU ERFA archives. SJSU ERFA Archives will join the CSU ERFA archives, which are housed at CSU Dominguez

Hills. See: <http://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt7779r05s/>

SJSU ERFA archives had materials to donate only because of the collection and maintenance efforts of our previous archivists, Cliff Johnson and Lonna Smith. This year, we welcome Celia Bakke as SJSU

Archivist to carry on their very fine work. As soon as the SJSU ERFA archive is available at the Online Archive of California, we will send out an announcement by email. If you are not on our email list, please email me at [jobellw@gmail.com](mailto:jobellw@gmail.com)

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## New University President



Sue Martin has been named as the latest leader at SJSU. Read more about her selection in the Report on Page 2.

## On Our List?

Have you missed an ERFA event because the reservation form arrived too late? Have you missed an ERFA event because you simply forgot about it? The SJSU-ERFA email list can help. Members on the list receive notices and email reminders of events, as well as reservation forms that can be printed at home,

We established the email list in 2007 to quickly distribute pertinent information to members. The board approved the list specifically for news and announcements regarding: (1) SJSU-ERFA events; (2) ERFA members and SJSU retired faculty and staff; and (3) related organizations, such as CalPERS, CSU-ERFA, and SJSU. Any member on our list can post a message, but we urge you to restrict postings to the above three categories. The list is unmoderated, so that messages posted are not censored or edited in any way. There are usually 3 to 5 messages sent in a month.

If you have any questions or want to be added to the list, contact Carol Christensen at [chriwolf@pacbell.net](mailto:chriwolf@pacbell.net)

## calendar

Friday, October 16, 2015

### Fall Luncheon

Michael's at Shoreline  
(See enclosed flyer)

Friday, December 11, 2015

### Holiday Celebration

3 pm to 5 pm  
MLK Library, 225-229

## University and Academic Senate Report

# *A new era begins at SJSU*

**By Peter Buzanski (History)**

The resignation of President Mohammad Qayoumi, effective August 17, marks the beginning of a year-long term for Interim President Susan Martin and opens a new chapter for the University. The sudden departure of Mo led virtually all retired members of our organization to conclude that the resignation was not voluntary. However, there is little information available and there are factors that can make such a conclusion erroneous. In this essay, I review a chronology

of events that enables readers to form their own opinion.

After the CSU Board of Trustees concluded its 3-year review of the SJSU President, Mo issued a statement on June 3, citing the positive points in the review, but he admitted that “commitments were made” and he listed five points that would be implemented by him. He included a pledge that he would “seek opportunities to visit regularly with students, faculty and staff. . . .” On June 15 the Chancellor issued a memorandum stating that the Trustees’ review

is by California law a confidential personnel decision, but both he and the trustees were confident that under Mo’s leadership “and the new senior leadership team he is assembling” the future of SJSU would improve.

One statement in the Chancellor’s memorandum, giving credence to the belief that Mo’s resignation was not voluntary, is White’s statement that he “personally read every letter and thoroughly considered the varied points of view.” Many SJSU faculty members believe the Chancellor most likely failed to receive a single positive comment about Mo. His resignation, announced publicly on July 13, seemingly confirmed the belief in the resignation’s involuntary origin. While Mo informed the Chancellor of his resignation nine days prior to his public notice, White announced his selection of an interim president a mere three days later, on July 17. Susan Martin’s term of office began on August 18, 2015.

One final thought about our now departed President. The description of his new assignment, “to serve as Chief Advisor to the President [of Afghanistan, Ashraf Ghani] for Infrastructure and Technology,” sounds very much like a title designed by Mo rather than Ghani.

Dr. Susan Martin, the new Interim President, has a B.A. degree from Central Michigan University and an MBA and Ph.D. in accounting from Michigan State University. In appointing her to lead SJSU, Chancellor White noted that she is the former President of Eastern Michigan University at Ypsilanti and a seasoned leader in higher education. She has also held significant positions in state government, where

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**SJSU ERFA Officers, 2015-16**

**President** -- Jo Bell Whitlatch

**Vice Pres.** -- Nancie Fimbel

**Secretary** -- Dennis Wilcox

**Treasurer** -- Abdel El-Shaieb

**Members at Large** -- Marian Yoder

Bill McCraw

Carmen Sigler

**Academic Senate** -- Peter Buzanski

**Past President** -- Joan Merdinger

***Ex Officio Members***

**Newsletter** Gene Bernardini (Editor) and Clyde Lawrence (Layout/Design)

**Membership** Wayne Savage

**Consolations**

Jill Cody

**Activities** Dolores Escobar-Hamilton

**Archivist**

Celia Bakke

Barbara Conry

**CSU-ERFA Reps**

Don Keesey

Lonna Smith

Bob Wilson

Joan Merdinger

**ERFA Member-at-Large**--Adnan Daoud

**Webmaster**--Carol Christensen

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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.

## In Memoriam

• **Louis Fischl, Jr.** (Business, '92) passed away on May 6, 2015, at his home in Palo Alto after a long illness. Born in Helena, Montana, in 1923, Lou grew up in Oakland, CA. He worked in his father's three pharmacies before entering Stanford Univ., where his education was interrupted by WW II. He served stateside as an Army Drill Instructor, a translator in the Signal Service and finally, an MP. After the War, he finished his BA at Stanford in 1948, then took an MBA in 1954, and began teaching at SJSU in 1956. Ten years later, he earned a law degree at Santa Clara Univ. He published a number of articles and pamphlets on business law. Lou was a colorful personality who sported cowboy hats and string ties with dress suits. He enjoyed gambling, often spending weekends in Reno and Las Vegas, where he and his partner, Bob, were offered complimentary food and lodging at the casinos. He was also a gourmet cook who treated his poker-playing buddies to exquisite dinners at his home and he personally owned more than half a dozen slot machines, which he stocked with coins for his guests to try their luck. (He even wrote two articles on the legality of owning and operating slot machines.) Lou was glad that he chose to become an academic and not follow his father in business. He enjoyed teaching students and associating with stimulating colleagues. It was "the lifestyle that suited me best," he said.



• **Edward Laurie** (Business/Marketing, '91) passed away peacefully at home on July 2, 2015, at the age of 89. Born and raised in Sparks, Nevada, Ed enlisted in the Navy at age 17 and qualified for the V-12 Program, which provided for his education during the War. He received his BS in 1946, his MBA in 1950 and an Ed.D in 1959, all at UCLA. He taught, while working on his degrees, first at a high school, then Reno Business College, followed by UCLA, Washington State and Oregon State, before coming to SJSU in 1956. He was a pioneer in the computer field, authoring six computer text books and giving talks, seminars and workshops for corporations and agencies in different countries. In addition, he wrote countless articles, too many to list, while serving as Chair of the Marketing Dept., then Assoc. Dean of the School of Business and Coordinator of the Graduate Program at SJSU. Ed was a witty, lively speaker with a mischievous sense of humor. He was also a polymath. He could hold forth on everything from ancient Egypt, which he loved, to postmodern academia, which he hated. A voracious reader, he often made reference to the many authors, classical and modern, who had most influenced his thought and style. After retiring, he wrote ten short mystery novels and an autobiography: *The Devil's Own Imp*. In his later years he wrote letters to the editor and daily essays on anything in the news that riled or intrigued him. He was a wanna-be columnist or blogger, who regularly emailed missives to friends and relatives. In one of his more introspective pieces he acknowledged a few regrets in his life, confessing that perhaps

he might have spent more time listening than talking. Those who knew him well might have replied, "Amen to that." At his private memorial service, his family and closest friends scattered his ashes from a boat just outside the Golden Gate Bridge. They read a memorial poem to him and quoted his best remembered words, while playing his favorite music. His wife, Pat, said the occasion was perfect: "Even Ed, who wanted no ceremony, would have loved it."



• **Ray Pimentel** (Foreign Languages, '96) passed away on August 15, 2015, due to complications from heart failure. He was 88 years old. Ray took his BA and Ph.D. from UC Berkeley. He taught German language and literature at the University of Houston and UC Davis before coming to SJSU. Friends and family knew Ray as sweet, funny, highly intelligent and full of passion for life, which he lived on his own terms. After retiring, he devoted his next 19 years to what he enjoyed most: camping, sailing, golf, travel, watching football and, most important, listening to Mozart and Wagner (sometimes while watching football). Classical music was his passion and he could whistle entire symphonies from memory without missing a beat. In the last few years a weak heart slowed him down but never dampened his spirit. He spent time visiting with friends, floating in his pool, or sitting in the garden listening to operas. Ray is survived by his wife, Kathy, of 51 years, a son, two grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

## Travel Adventures



### *Lions, leopards and cheetahs, oh my!*

# No stampeding giraffes at Gary Player's

**By Scott Rice**

(English)

In May, my wife Mary Beth and I continued with our post-retirement travels by visiting South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Botswana. We flew into George, S.A., where I got to play golf at Gary Player's Fancourt and then near Cape Town at Steenberg. (I can now boast of having golfed on every continent, if not always well.) We spent five days in Cape Town, "the Mother City," seeing obligatory sites like Table Mountain and the penguin colony and the Cape of Good Hope and the wine country. But we came to see the animals, so

from Cape Town we flew up to game preserves near Kruger Park and went on a dozen twice-a-day game drives, getting up at five each morning and staying out past dark.

A drive consists of bouncing around in an open Toyota Land Cruiser (a ride known to locals as an African massage) while a ranger and a guide ferret out the wild critters. Our reward came when we parked amidst lion prides and giraffe herds and strolling leopards. Among other delights we saw a mother cheetah and its cubs, leopards

with the impala carcasses they had dragged up into trees (impalas are finger food for the big cats, one guide informed us), and—the most fun—a pack of wild dogs treeing a leopard. (When the dogs finally lost interest and wandered off to harass something else, the leopard casually descended and trotted off.) Less savory was the spectacle of lions feeding on the carcass of an old bull elephant that we were reassured had expired from old age. Nature red in tooth and claw is now less of an abstraction for me, although the trip was not all savagery. Late in

## *A Surprising Visit to North Korea*

**By Carol Mukhopadhyay**

(Anthropology)

In the last year, my husband, Asok, and I visited China and Vietnam, but the highlight of our trip was a visit to North Korea, AKA the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

Most people don't realize that US citizens can legally go to North Korea, just as they can to Cuba. We went in July-August, 2014, through Global Exchange, a San Francisco based organization. This was perhaps the most eye-opening trip of our lifetimes, even as well-seasoned travelers! We came to see how ignorant we, as well-informed, highly-educated progressives, were about the history of DPRK and, particularly, the Korean War. Traveling there motivated us to read, starting with the US Government Area Handbook Series (North Korea: a Country Study). It's a compilation of reports by scholars available on-line. Not exactly a "left-wing"

source—yet substantive, with chapters by scholars like historian Bruce Cumings of the Univ. of Chicago. Again, it was eye-opening and frightening to realize how distorted and superficial is the "coverage" of DPRK in the US and western press generally.

The trip itself was astonishing. Pyongyang is a beautiful, modern city, complete with a subway, parks, rivers, skyscrapers, wide streets, museums and children's palaces. This is partly because during the Korean War US bombing destroyed the city, leaving only one building standing, so it was completely rebuilt. And there are virtually no cars, consumption-related debris (advertising flyers, food-wrappers) or smog, unlike Beijing today!

We also traversed the countryside, visiting beautiful,

well-preserved Buddhist and other historic monuments, going through steep mountains with gorgeous waterfalls and hiking paths, touring an agricultural cooperative and visiting a fertilizer factory. Of course, we visited Kaesong and the DMZ, and discussed both the war and the desire for unification with several DPRK soldiers. We also had long conversations with our two DPRK guides, who were surprisingly open to our unending questioning of them about the DPRK, including the death of key officials.

Overall, I would strongly recommend a trip to the DPRK, especially since we academics emphasize the value of critical thinking, seeing multiple perspectives, and challenging superficial media treatments of complex, multi-faceted political and historical situations.

## Travel Adventures



# Just Tourists!

**By Bob Gliner (Sociology)**

Virtually all of us have traveled at one time or another, either in the U.S. or abroad. We usually do so for the broadening effect it has on us. Yet, we rarely stop to examine the impact we as tourists may have on the places we visit, especially those in developing nations. In 1989 I decided to explore this proposition for a documentary I wanted to produce. With a close friend to accompany me, we set out on a trip that would take us around the world.

We began with a visit to Bali, Indonesia, reputedly one of the most beautiful and peaceful islands in the world. But as soon as one enters

the gateway town of Kuta Beach, this tranquil image of the island quickly dissolves. Kuta Beach is overrun with gift shops, its streets clogged with noisy motorbikes, and everywhere commercial posters offer tourists all kinds of experiences, including the chance to witness an actual cremation ceremony for a fee—a form of religious prostitution.

Venturing further inland one does find small, tranquil villages with picturesque, terraced rice fields, complete with local residents tending the green shoots. But here too, the serene setting of the Balinese performing routine tasks necessary for feeding the local population, often serves as a mere backdrop to

attract busloads of tourists who suddenly appear, cameras in hand, to photograph traditional Balinese culture. To give some perspective, imagine weeding your front lawn somewhere in suburban San Jose when two Greyhound busses with tourists from Japan, Latin America or the Middle East suddenly unload and surround your small patch of lawn to get a close up view of you

on your knees, sweating, or perhaps to peer over your neighbor's fence to get a photo of him flipping hamburgers or simply dozing in his lounge chair.

While my larger focus was on the economic and cultural impact of tourism,

I soon became aware of the impact of the camera itself. At our next stop, Delhi, India, while driving around the city looking for interesting visuals, we got stuck in a traffic jam. Our hired driver indicated it might be a while, as traffic was backed up for several blocks in all directions. I got out of the car with my camera to find out what was happening and saw a wide street up ahead, lined with thousands of people attending a memorial parade for a well known "opposition" politician who had just died. Taking advantage of the situation, I began filming the event with my shoulder-held camera. Within minutes, several people leading the funeral

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## golf course

the afternoon we would stop for a "sundowner," finger foods and coffee with a liqueur called Amarula (marula leaves are a great favorite of giraffes). Leaving the ruins of the elephant behind, we flew to Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe where we took a helicopter flight over the Falls, and then to the Chobe Game Preserve in Botswana, the country with the most elephants and, I swear, water buffalo. After attending several "bomas," African buffets with wild game, I left feeling that I'd OD'd on wild game (you can eat only so much wart hog, impala, kudu and crocodile—no joke, crocodile tastes a little like chicken, chewy chicken). I did, though, develop a taste for a local delicacy called biltong, the African equivalent of beef jerky. And the South Africans know what to do with a grape. It was a grand adventure and we have the photo record to show for it, including videos of browsing elephants and stampeding giraffes. A week after we returned, a lioness killed an American tourist at a game park near Johannesburg. Apparently she rolled down her window and was attacked. Window? We didn't have no stinkin' windows, and we parked within yards of lions, leopards, and cheetahs in open vehicles. After reading about the fatality, I wondered if Mary Beth and I had been playing African roulette. I recalled that when we checked into a game park, we were asked to sign a statement absolving the safari company from liability for anything that might happen to us. At the time it seemed only fair. After all, the animals are not employees.



# 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

• **Mike Adams** (TV-Radio-Film-Theater, '14), recently retired, is actively pursuing his research and writing. He just mailed his latest manuscript to McFarland Publishing, tentatively titled, *Juvenile Radio Fiction: History and Analysis*. His previous work, *Lee de Forest, King of Radio, Television and Film* was published by Springer Science in 2012. He is also Chair of the California Historical Radio Society.

• **Carol Christensen** (Kinesiology, '04) returned from a trip to Cuba in February and another to Ireland and Greenland in July. All three countries offered diverse sights and interesting ways of life. But equally important, she shot a personal best round of golf back home in Milpitas: 83 strokes on the 18-hole Spring Valley course.

• **Beverly Waller-Wharton** (Undergrad Studies, '95) traveled in June with 38 members of the Villages Hiking Club, hiking the trails around Jenkinson Lake in Pollock Pines. In May, she spent a week at the Ridge Resorts in Tahoe, where hiking was cancelled due to thunderstorms and hail. Nonetheless, Beverly is thankful at her age to be able to still hike despite a total hip replacement 17 years ago.

• **Donald Kassing** (Past President, SJSU) and his wife, Amy, are enjoying their retirement in Arizona. They have eight grandchildren to keep up with, ranging in age from seven to a 22 year-old doctoral student at the Univ. of Alabama. "Meanwhile," Don says, "we miss seeing you all on a regular basis."

• **Charlene Archibeque** (Music, '05) is still as active as ever. She was recently named "Volunteer of the Year" by the San Francisco

Symphony, while serving on half a dozen musical boards and committees, and last year wrote and produced a DVD entitled "How to Make a Good Choir Sound Great." She's making two presentations at national choral conducting associations this year, one of which is called "Singer Friendly Techniques for Brain-Friendly Rehearsals." She also continues with workshops, clinics and judging choral competitions. She just turned 80 this summer.

• **Norman Keiser** (Economics, '83) is still running his auto business, while rebuilding a horse ranch in the Sierra. "I ride my horse whenever I can," he says.

• **Joanne Rife** (Public Relations, '92) just finished a four-year backpacking project with her son, Dan. They hiked the length of the John Muir Trail, 211 miles along the spine of the Sierra Nevada and finished atop Mt. Whitney (14,500 feet). In February she enjoyed ten days in Guanajuato, Mexico, with her family, then, a month later, took a Road Scholar trip to NY City, for the "Lincoln Center Festival." There she attended an opera, a dance concert, a world premiere by the NY Symphony, two Broadway plays and visited five museums. Whew!

• **Robert Donovan** (Continuing Ed, '97) writes, with undisguised relief, "After 20 plus years of owning a computer, we got rid of it! And in the months since, we haven't missed it. Our days now have one less distraction and more time for our principal activity, reading."

The only real change is that "we no longer have an email address," he says. (And nowhere for people to send him their "Congratulations!")

• **William Tidwell** (Biology, '88) has undergone a year of significant

changes. Now in nursing care, he is suffering from an irreversible medical condition of adult-onset hydrocephaly, according to his wife, Lou. She says his fondest memories are still of his years teaching in the Biology Dep't. at SJSU.

• **Betty Auchard** (Widow of Denny Auchard, Education) is pleased that her third manuscript, entitled *Living with Twelve Men: Mother in Training*, is now being read and considered by a Pasadena publisher. Her previous two memoirs, *Dancing in my Nightgown* and *The Home for the Friendless* are both available on Amazon.com and she has high hopes for this one. "Wish me luck," she writes.

• **Bernice Redfern** (Library, '13) is currently serving on the Board of Directors for the San Jose Branch of the American Association of University Women, and is on their Archive Committee. In May, she traveled to the French-Italian Riviera and Lake Como.

• **John Gruber** (Physics, '05) has just co-authored, with two colleagues, *Magneto-optical Spectroscopy of the Rare-Earth Compounds: Development and Application*. John claims it's been praised for its well-written text and theoretical calculations that are accessible to foreign and American grad students and high-tech researchers.

• **Susan Murphy** (Nursing, '01) and husband Michael traveled to Greece last year. While Michael was on a choral tour, Susan took a small privately-designed tour of "Greece Seldom Seen," which included climbing to those monasteries at the top of rock formations in Meteora and hiking to Vikos Gorge.

## Travel Adventures



### **Just Tourists!**

(Continued from Page 5)

procession came over and motioned for me to come into the street to get a better camera angle on the event. As a result, the procession came to a halt, waiting for me to get through the crowd and into place. Almost as soon as I had begun filming, the police, who had been escorting the procession, came over to ask for my press credentials—CNN? Reuters? Fox News? Since I could produce none of these documents I was quickly ushered to the sidewalk, and the memorial continued, unimpeded.

I also found that most tourists focus on getting shots of famous landmarks such as the Taj Mahal in Agra, a five-hour drive from Delhi. Yet, if one moves a few hundred yards away from the monument, one quickly becomes aware that the magnificent building is surrounded by slums. To get a glimpse of the larger India that we often miss while being shuttled from Taj Mahals to old British Forts, I began filming inside these rundown neighborhoods. Our driver had a difficult time coming to grips with this interest. Who goes to India to visit slums when there is so much jewelry and carpets to be gotten from shopkeepers who are related to the drivers? In Delhi, I asked that we be dropped off in the poorest section of the city, an area our driver was reluctant to traverse, with its narrow streets filled with thousands of people going about daily routines of survival. The driver told us he would meet up with us in a couple of hours, on the other side of the neighborhood—that is, he added wryly, if we were still alive, or, in his words, hadn't yet been

reincarnated.

Part of our trip took us to Kashmir, in the northern tip of India, where I got another view of what it meant to be a tourist. This is an area contested by Pakistan and which many Kashmiris consider an occupied territory. This point was quickly driven home by our local driver, an animated young man who had no difficulty expressing his grievances with India. One day, on a rather narrow paved road through the Himalayan foothills (meaning mountains under 15,000 feet), searching for Western mountain climbers to interview, we found ourselves behind a caravan of Indian army troops moving slowly on the road in front of us. After a few minutes, our driver grew impatient, pulled out onto the shoulder of the road and sped past the dozen trucks and jeeps. Just after clearing the lead vehicle, he stopped suddenly, blocking the caravan's progress. He jumped out and walked briskly toward the commander's jeep. An argument then ensued, with our driver doing most of the talking and shouting. When he returned after several minutes, I asked him what he was doing. He said he told them they had no business in his country. Perhaps, I thought, this was a discussion better had on his own time, not on ours. After all, we were just tourists, wishing to travel unimpeded by the economic and political problems of the places we visit. Our priorities are often quite different from those of the people who we expect to entertain us with apparent smiles and ready handshakes.

## President's Message

### **Reaching out to colleagues**

(Continued from Page 1)

we will invite you to join our list. As a librarian emerita, I take particular pleasure in being a part of this initiative!

In 2015/2016, all of our regular events will be continuing, thanks to very active program and activities committees on the Board. Please make certain to mark your calendars for the ERFA Fall Luncheon, which will be at Michaels at Shoreline on Friday, October 16. The views of the Bay are very beautiful and our speaker's presentation promises to be an interesting exploration of an important and challenging topic. Also, I encourage you to reserve the date for our annual ERFA Holiday Party now: Friday, December 11.

Finally, I would like to ask for your help! We have entered the years when all the "baby boomers" are retiring! In your department or school, do you know people who are about to retire (includes those about to FERP) or people who have retired in the last few years? Please reach out and encourage them to join both SJSU ERFA and CSU ERFA. SJSU ERFA will help keep you in touch with your SJSU colleagues, and CSU ERFA is a great source for information on both health and pension benefits. For your reference, a list of SJSU ERFA members is available on our Website: [http://www.sjsu.edu/emeritusfaculty/docs/SJSU\\_ERFA\\_Members\\_2013-14rev.pdf](http://www.sjsu.edu/emeritusfaculty/docs/SJSU_ERFA_Members_2013-14rev.pdf)

An application form is also available: <http://www.sjsu.edu/emeritusfaculty/membership/application/>

If you have suggestions for recruiting more members for ERFA please send me your ideas. I look forward to hearing from you by email ([jobellw@gmail.com](mailto:jobellw@gmail.com)) and seeing you at our many activities.

Newsletter of the Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association  
SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY  
One Washington Square  
San Jose, CA 95192-0210

## Return Service Requested

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## *Academic Senate report: A new era begins*

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she served as Assistant Auditor General and was appointed by two governors to serve as the Deputy State Treasurer and to head the Commission of Revenue.

In taking the position at SJSU, Martin faces immediate problems that require skillful handling. Although the five-year accreditation report issued by WASC just before Mo's departure found important improvements compared to the previous report, it "noted with grave concern the high turnover of top administrators . . . with several presidents, provosts, vice presidents, and deans leaving in [a] short period." The report then observed that although Mo developed a strategic plan shortly

after his arrival and experimented with new methods of delivering education [obviously a reference to the failed MOOC attempt], his procedures had led the Senate to request the Chancellor "to assess the impact of a lack of shared governance."

By contrast, Martin's style of leadership involves constant circulation on the campus, mingling with staff, students and faculty, getting to know them not only by name, but as individuals. A San Jose Mercury columnist suggested that the Chancellor immediately persuade Martin to stay on as permanent president in a column which mocked the few negative comments made about her appointment.

These came from two faculty members of the Communications department who opposed Martin's appointment, urging the Chancellor to withdraw it. One claimed that heading a CSU campus is so difficult that only someone within the CSU system can succeed, overlooking the fact that the very best presidents SJSU has had were Robert Clark (1964-1969), who came from Oregon, and Robert Caret (1995-2003), from Maryland, while our previous president came from within the CSU. Essentially, the few opponents to Martin's appointment are nitpickers, citing issues of little importance to the job now assumed by Martin. But time will tell who is correct.