

San Jose State University

**SJSU ScholarWorks**

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Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association  
(ERFA) Newsletter

The SJSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty  
Association

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Summer 2020

## **SJSU ERFA News, Summer 2020**

San Jose State University, Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

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SJSU  
**ERFA**  
**News**

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

*Inside . . .*

President Chris Joachim describes the unique Spring board meetings resulting from COVID-19 and announces the slate of officers for 2020-2021. Joan Merdinger reveals the Faculty Award winners and their projects.



The Zoomers . . . Who's tech-challenged? Not these ERFA board members who met while sheltering in place. Get another look at them on page 2.

President's Message

**Reflections on an Unusual Year as ERFA President**

**By Chris Jochim**

2019-2020 started out very well for ERFA. We had succeeded in filling the void left by Gene Bernardini's resignation from the Board as Newsletter Editor, when Don Keesey and Nancie Fimbel stepped in to handle the job. All year long the results have been wonderful. We were also fortunate that Joan Merdinger and Jackie Snell formed a Membership team to replace Wayne Savage, who resigned after doing the job for more years than anyone can remember. With many old stalwarts continuing to serve on

the Board, my anxiety over being President for a year subsided.

Fall 2019 was also a period of stellar events. SJSU hosted the meeting of the statewide ERFSA group on October 5, and a week later (October 11) we held our Fall luncheon at Flames Eatery and Grill across from King Library. Attendees liked the location better than most prior ones and were enthralled by the presentation of Kim Welsh, Director of Economic Development for the City of San Jose, who chose the topic: "Sneak Peak: What's Happening

in Downtown San Jose." Not long after that event President Papazian held a Reception for Retired Faculty at her home in the Rose

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***calendar***

Friday, October 16, 2020

Zoom Webinar

***About the Fall Elections***

**Speaker:**

**Garrick Percival**

**Chair, Political Science Department**

University and Academic Senate News***Emergency resolution allows 'Zoom Senate'*****By Susan McClory**

It has been a very different semester for the SJSU campus. In mid-March, we started having all our meetings via Zoom following passage of an emergency resolution allowing for a variance from the constitution. Policies also had to be passed dealing with the change to online learning, grading,

and SOTE collection.

Major policies passed this spring included: 1) a complete review of the Senate Bylaws making them up to date and easier to read; 2) endorsement of a report from Professional Standards involving implementation of RTP policies along with 15 recommendations; 3) clarification of the drop policy

that included a requirement to notify students before an instructor drop was instituted; and, 4) a policy dealing with merging, dividing, transferring and eliminating academic units.

With changes being made continuously this spring, there were many informational items of interest. Here are some of them.

Admitted Spartan Day was held virtually this year from April 18-25. There were webinars, panels and virtual tours. While our current number of new students who indicated they plan to attend SJSU in the fall is up by 760 FTES, it is uncertain what our yield will be. Many students are thinking about taking a gap year but we are reaching out to incoming students to encourage them not to do that because opportunities for employment and travel may not be as available as they have been in past years. While we still do not know exactly what the fall semester will look like, we are working with medical professionals and government representatives to offer the best academic experience that we can.

For students who are graduating this spring, the graduation dates will remain the same but commencement will not take place as usual. Graduating students are being asked to submit their stories for virtual recognition.

On a financial note, the campus received over \$28 million from the Corona Virus Higher Education Relief Fund. Some of that money is earmarked for students on financial aid and we are working on distributing it to them. While most hiring has been frozen, we will continue to hire new faculty as that is an investment in the future of the campus.

Finally, the Academic Senate

**SJSU ERFA Executive Board, 2019-20*****Elected Officers*****President** -- Chris Jochim**Vice Pres.** -- Tim Hegstrom**Secretary** -- Celia Bakke**Treasurer** -- Abdel El-Shaieb**Members at Large** -- Mary Jo Gorney-Moreno

Lucy McProud

Carmen Sigler

**Academic Senate** -- Susan McClory**Past President** ---- Elba Maldonado-Colon***Ex Officio Members*****Newsletter** --- Nancie Fimbel and Don Keeseey (Editors)  
and Clyde Lawrence (Layout/Design)**Membership** Jackie Snell, Joan Merdinger **Consolations** Jill Cody**Activities** Dolores Escobar-Hamilton  
Lucy McProud  
Lonna Smith**Archivist****CSU-ERFA Reps**

Celia Bakke

Nancie Fimbel

Don Keeseey

Joan Merdinger

**Program Committee:** Barbara Conry, Mary Jo Gorney-Moreno,  
Bill McCraw, Lucy McProud, Carmen Sigler**Webmaster**--Carol Christensen**SJSU ERFA Office****MacQuarrie Hall 438D****email:** [celia.bakke@sjsu.edu](mailto:celia.bakke@sjsu.edu) • **Telephone:** (408) 924-2478**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 editors or of San Jose State University.

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## President's Message

# Moving toward interacting online

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Garden area of San Jose. I was able to attend with several other Board members and to introduce ERFA to the newly minted retirees. Finally, to top off the Fall term we had one of the best Holiday Celebrations in memory, having made sure the event would be on campus (King Library) for a midday light lunch. This was the time and location preferred according to our survey of ERFA members, and the number and enthusiasm of attendees justified our planning decisions.

It sounded like 2019-2020 was going to be a perfect year. Then, along came the Coronavirus. The story of the spring events was one you have heard, in many different versions from many sources: Spring Excursion to CSU Maritime and Mare Island—cancelled. President Papazian's Reception for Retired Faculty—cancelled. Spring Luncheon and Annual Business Meeting—cancelled. All Film Club outings—cancelled.

Perhaps you are wondering about how ERFA Board members met and conducted monthly meetings during "shelter-in-place." You guessed it: We held Zoom Meetings. Considering that we are supposedly tech-challenged due to advanced age, it was a piece

### Univesity and Academic Senate News

## **Only one officer change**

*(Continued from Page 2)*

honored Pamela Stacks and Bethany Shifflett for their years of service to the campus and to the Academic Senate. The officers for next year will not change with the exception of the chair of O&G where Bethany Shifflett will be replaced by Karthika Sasikumar.



### **The ERFA board meets on Zoom. Well, it is the 21st century. Right?**

of cake. This is likely due more to Zoom's user-friendly features than to our high-tech skills, but we were proud of our smooth transition from an "in-person" to an "online" mode of interactions. What's next? Get ready for upcoming

experiments in virtual events for ERFA members. If you have any ideas, please share them with me (christian.jochim@sjsu.edu) as Past President for 2020-21 or incoming President Timothy Hegstrom (tim-hegstrom@sjsu.edu).

### ERFA activities continue online

## **Preview of coming virtual attractions**

### **By Carmen Sigler**

In recent months, as our daily lives took an unprecedented shift due to COVID-19, we cancelled two of our traditional activities: the Spring Excursion and the May Lunch. We hope to be able to reschedule them in 2021 and look forward to seeing you in person. However, for the near future, we plan to conduct our activities in "virtual" mode.

On Friday October 16th, we will provide the program that you would have heard at the fall

luncheon, namely, a San Jose State expert talking about the November elections. It will be a Zoom webinar, and there will be a Zoom training session before the meeting for those who wish to practice in advance.

Some of our interest groups, such as the Film Group, will also be transitioning to a virtual modality, and we are exploring the possibility of creating other on-line discussion groups such as a book club.

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## *In Memoriam*



• **William (“Bill”) George** (School of Music and Dance ‘05) passed away from complications from surgery on March 11, 2020, at the age of 83. Born in Merced, Bill spent most of his growing up years in Fresno. He received his B.A. from Fresno State University and his M.A., M.F.A., and Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. His first professional teaching position was at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, NM. When Bill came to SJSU in 1965, he taught French horn, music theory (including Schenkerian analysis), and graduate courses in the School of Music and Dance. He was a beloved professor to hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students, known for his fastidious lectures, sense of humor, and deep concern for all of his students. Bill was a founding member of the Executive Board of the American Beethoven Society, founded in 1983 to establish and support The Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies at SJSU. He remained on the board until his passing; hence, he is the longest serving member of the board. Even after serving SJSU for 40 years, after retirement Bill volunteered at the Beethoven Center as a bibliographer for the largest Beethoven

bibliographic database in the world, the Beethoven Gateway. He also served as a member of the editorial board for The Beethoven Journal, for which he wrote reviews and articles. Bill is survived by his wife of 60 years, Shirley, a brother, a sister-in-law, a niece, and several nephews.



• **Jonathan Lovell** (English ’18) died in San Jose on April 14 at age 74. A native of Massachusetts, he received his first B.A. degree from Williams College in 1967, and a second from Oxford University in 1969. He completed a Ph.D. in English at Yale in 1977. Jonathan then served as Assistant Professor of English and Education at Columbia before moving to U.C. Davis and then to the University of Nevada at Reno (1983-87) where he was the co-director of the Northern Nevada Writing Project. In 1987 he came to SJSU with the explicit charge to bring the Bay Area Writing Project to San Jose. Thus he began what was to be a 33-year career as director of the San Jose Area Writing Project, a grant-funded program to support teachers in writing instruction in middle and high schools. This

was his passion, and even after his retirement from SJSU he continued to direct the program until his final illness. Jonathan is survived by his wife, Ellen, two daughters, and five grandchildren.



• **Judith Peterson** (Associate), spouse of Nils Peterson (English), passed away peacefully in their home at a senior center in Seattle, April 21, 2020. Diagnosed with ALS a few short years ago, Judith accepted the diagnosis with remarkable calm, which was no surprise to all who knew her. As a Jungian psychotherapist and devoted follower of Paramahansa Yogananda, she was, above all, a spiritual being. Judith viewed death simply as another aspect of life to be fully accepted and embraced. Judith was also an artist, an accomplished portraitist and ceramicist, and a teacher of English and Journal Writing—even in Soledad Prison. And she loved nature, hiking throughout England and Europe over many years. She is survived by her husband, Nils, two daughters, and one grandson.

## [Join the 300 Club](#)

# A chance to leave a biographical legacy

**By Joan Merdinger  
and Jo Bell Whitlatch**

Join the 300 Club - we are not asking you to join the traditional 300 Club and experience a temperature difference of 300 degrees Fahrenheit within a very short time, but we are asking you to join our 300 ERFA ScholarWorks Biography Project.

Working with the University Library, the ERFA Board has created an opportunity for you to create, edit, and update the information you would like to include about your professional life as a faculty member at SJSU, and any personal information that you would also like to share. As of April 2020, there are more than 300 Biographies of ERFA members on the ScholarWorks website, which greatly increases the visibility of the contributions and achievements of ERFA members. You can use this link to access biographies of your colleagues: [https://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/erfa\\_bios/](https://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/erfa_bios/)

This is an important opportunity for you, as a retired faculty member, to leave as a legacy the contributions that you made to SJSU. Please note that this current ScholarWorks project – along with all prior Biographies projects that have been sponsored by the ERFA Board – is a completely voluntary opportunity for all ERFA members.

To provide some history - after the founding of SJSU ERFA in 1986 (then called EFA—Emeritus Faculty Association), its Executive Board initiated an effort to chronicle the accomplishments of SJSU retired faculty members and create a legacy for them. The project culminated in a sizeable compendium that took ten years to

complete. Entitled the [Biographies of Retired Faculty, San José State University, 1997: A project of the Emeritus Faculty Association of San José State University](#), it was

adopted ScholarWorks as the institutional repository of the research and creative works of all SJSU faculty, students, and staff. And in collaboration with

**ERFA Members'  
BIOGRAPHIES**



over 450 pages long and included the biographies of 170 Emeritus faculty. It is still available in our University Library.

Following that initial effort, in 2009, our Board, under the leadership of then-ERFA President Pat Nichols, decided to undertake a new effort to update the biographies of SJSU faculty who had retired since the original compendium of Biographies. With new computer technology we could upgrade the process to keep a running list of retirees into perpetuity. Thus, a Bios page was created on our SJSU ERFA website and ERFA members were encouraged to submit their own biographies, with a picture, to chronicle past accomplishments and inform colleagues of their current interests and projects. The Bios page currently lists 80 ERFA members; of these, 32 faculty are also in the 1997 [Biographies of Retired Faculty](#).

Bringing us up to the current era, the SJSU Library has

the ERFA board, the University Library has created a new area of ScholarWorks dedicated to the SJSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty, entitled, "The Emeritus and Retired Faculty Biographies." The ERFA Biographies Committee has already migrated all faculty biographies in the 1997 [Biographies](#) volume and almost all of the biographies on the ERFA Bios webpage to the new ScholarWorks site. In addition, over 80 new faculty biographies are also available on the ERFA ScholarWorks Biographies webpages.

Here is the link to get started: [http://bit.ly/ERFA\\_bios](http://bit.ly/ERFA_bios). If you would like to work directly with a member of the Biographies Committee to create your own biographical legacy through this project, please contact Jo Bell Whitlatch at [jobellw@gmail.com](mailto:jobellw@gmail.com) or at (650) 326-0505.

We hope that you will join us in this new endeavor!

## Your Donation Dollars Are Hard at Work

### By Joan Merdinger

Over the last six years, members of ERFA have generously supported the research and creative activities of our SJSU faculty colleagues with 14 awards of \$2500 each, for a total of \$35,000. Due to your ongoing financial support, we have three awardees this year. Although our Spring Luncheon was cancelled and you were not able to meet our awardees in person, we would

like to introduce them to you, and include a brief summary of the work each will be doing because of your greatly appreciated donations.

**Dr. Melinda Simon**, a tenure-track faculty member in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, will use her award to purchase supplies and the assistance of a student to increase our understanding of tissue growth, "...to remove the need for organ

transplants...and to sustain tissues of significant size."

**Dr. Gilles Muller**, a tenured faculty member in the Department of Chemistry, will use his funds to purchase materials needed for his experiments that involve his students. His research relates to the potential for drugs to act in different and unexpected ways when interacting with a biological system.

**Dr. Wes Maciejewski**, a tenure-track faculty member in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, will study the issue of "flexibility" – that mathematical problems can be solved in a multitude of ways, and that developing flexibility "...is a hallmark of expertise." He will collect and analyze data from an instrument that he designed. His funds will provide incentives for student participation, and for travel expenses to present his work at an international mathematics conference.

With all the University budget problems caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we can anticipate that our ERFA Faculty Research & Creative Activity Awards will be even more important for faculty in the upcoming year. If you are able, please help ERFA keep the momentum going for the ERFA Research & Creative Activity Award by sending a check made out to "Tower Foundation" and on the Memo line include "ERFA Faculty Award." Please send your check to our Treasurer, Abdel El-Shaieb, 5032 Wilma Way, San Jose, CA 95124. The Tower Foundation is a 501(C)3 organization and your donation is tax deductible.

## Newsletter moving toward on-line only

Starting with the Fall 2020 issue, we hope to have most of our members receiving our newsletters and flyers only in their electronic form. Why? It's a matter of money. Printing and mailing costs have risen dramatically, consuming an ever-larger share of our budget. At the same time, we've reached the point where nearly all our members have email addresses. So, it's the right moment to join the many other organizations that have gone to more online communications. An extra benefit: photographs appear in full color in the electronic editions.

### How will I receive the electronic edition?

Just as you do now, at the email address printed in the directory, unless you have let us know about a new email address. When the newsletter is ready to be printed, the electronic edition is posted on our website and all members are sent an email with the new issue attached. Just be sure we have your correct email address.

### How will I receive flyers allowing response to luncheons, excursions, etc.?

Some of these, too, will be sent via email. Just print the invitation and return it with your check in the usual manner. This is another opportunity to save money and a lot of paper. Every time we enclose a flyer in the printed newsletter, we need to print about 300 flyers. Only a small fraction of these are used to sign up for the event.

### How will I receive the Directory?

The printed Directory will continue to be mailed to all members.

### If I choose to receive the newsletter online only, what should I do?

Do nothing. You will be automatically added to the online-only list.

### If I choose to continue to receive the newsletter in printed form, what should I do?

Email Jackie Snell at jackiessnell@yahoo.com. If you can't email, call her at 408-392-0792. Leave your name and say "I choose to continue to receive the ERFA newsletter in printed form."

## New Officers for 2020-2021

Due to the lack of a Spring Luncheon and Annual Business Meeting, the members of the ERFA Board have approved a motion stipulating that those nominated for positions on the 2020-21 ERFA Board will be considered elected to their positions, unless an ERFA member objects in writing by July 1. Mail any objection to Nominations Committee Chair, Chris Jochim, 1640 Tawnygate Way, San Jose, CA 95124. If

an objection is received, there will need to be a vote by ERFA members as early as possible in AY 2020-21.

Chris Jochim will transition from President to Past President; Tim Hegstrom will transition from Vice-President to President; Jackie Snell will be the new Vice-President (and, therefore,

President in 2021-22); Celia Bakke will continue as Secretary; Abdel El-Shaieb will continue as Treasurer; the At-Large Members of the Board will be Mary Jo-Gourney Moreno (continuing), Lucy McProud (continuing), and Beth Von Till (new); Academic Senate Representative will be Susan McClory (continuing).

### ERFA activities

#### *Virtual attractions*

*(Continued from Page 3)*

If you're not familiar with Zoom, don't worry, it's quite easy to join a Zoom event. Just download the free Zoom app to your computer, tablet, or smart phone. You may be asked to create an account, but that's not necessary. When you receive an email inviting you to a meeting it will include a link that will allow you to join. At the designated time, open the Zoom app and enter the link. That will bring you into the meeting. For more details, be on the lookout for an email invitation to join a practice session for ERFA members sometime in July.

Finally, we will periodically share with you information about events and cultural resources available online. As a sample, we invite you to visit the following sites:

Google Arts and Culture Site:  
<https://artsandculture.google.com/>

Free Online-Classes from Harvard University: [https://online-learning.harvard.edu/catalog?keywords=&paid%5B1%5D=1&max\\_price=&start\\_date\\_range%5Bmin%5D%5Bdate%5D=&start\\_date\\_range%5Bmax%5D%5Bdate%5D=](https://online-learning.harvard.edu/catalog?keywords=&paid%5B1%5D=1&max_price=&start_date_range%5Bmin%5D%5Bdate%5D=&start_date_range%5Bmax%5D%5Bdate%5D=)

Stay tuned!



### In This Hard Time

by John Pollock

He dances in the basement, his proud mother tells me, while his brother and sister focus on their laptops in the dining room, all of us sheltered in place.

Stranded at home, quarantined, exiled from his college ballet instructors, he does all he can to pursue his Performing Arts Degree, alone.

I first saw him on stage when he was 12 years old, and wondered if Nureyev displayed such grace and poise at that young age. Later, he showed me a video, a piece he'd choreographed for himself in his advanced dance class before the pandemic shut down the world.

I picture him now, centered, striving in his parents' cellar, improvising to the final movement of Swan Lake, as he and Tchaikovsky become one mind/body/soul, no one there to witness the miraculous transfiguration.

And for just this one, brief moment my heart soars with him as he leaps, twirling and twirling, absolutely free of earth, gravity, and every thought of these sad days.



**Newsletter of the Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association**  
SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY  
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## **Return Service Requested**

## ***New Member Benefits with AROHE***

### **By Joan Merdinger**

Did you know that ERFA is a member of AROHE – the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education - and that new AROHE benefits are now available for individual members of ERFA?

From the newly posted Idea Exchange webinars, including the most recent offering, “COVID-19: Strategies for Virtual Connections,” to the Knowledge Center resources, including AROHE Briefs and member-shared resources, AROHE is helping organizations and their members navigate through these difficult times when in-person meetings are unavailable and shared ideas are more important than ever.

As an ERFA member of AROHE, you can benefit from the following:

- Online member directory
  - AROHE Matters e-newsletter
  - AROHE Connections Discussion Forum
- AROHE also holds a biennial conference, which has recently been rescheduled due to COVID-19 to October 2021. Your membership gives you a discount for conference attendance.
- These are just a few samples of what AROHE offers with your membership. If you would like to receive communications directly from AROHE, the ERFA Board will be sending out an email during the summer to invite you to join the AROHE listserve. This will be opt-in – if you are interested, you can add your email. If you are not interested, no need to respond. We hope you will take advantage of this new ERFA and AROHE membership opportunity.