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(ERFA) Newsletter

The SJSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty
Association

Spring 2022

SJSU ERFA News, Spring 2022

San Jose State University, Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

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SJSU ERFA

Newsletter

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

Academic Senate and Campus News

Collective Bargaining Agreement Ratified

By Chris Jochim

For faculty, the big news is that a new Collective Bargaining Agreement was ratified by the Board of Trustees and by over 90% of the California Faculty Association members. There was good news in it for all categories of faculty. Everyone will receive a \$3,500 COVID Service Award (pro-rated on time base) to recognize the significant and dedicated work of faculty during the 2020-21 academic year; a four percent General Salary Increase for this year, retroactive to July 1, 2021; another four percent GSI, contingent on the state budget, for the 2022-23 year; two rounds of Service Salary Increases (2021-22 and 2023-24); and a 2.65% Post-Promotion Increase in 2022-23 for full professors, Lecturer D faculty and equivalent coaches, counselors, and librarians who are no longer eligible for SSIs.

The February meeting of the Senate was the first meeting for SJSU's new Interim President Stephen Perez. He was asked only two questions, both linked to the *SJ Mercury* article a few days earlier about the sexual abuse scandal in Athletics. One senator asked how she might be assured that people involved in the broader cover

up signaled by this news would be held accountable. Perez replied: "You will see what we are going to do as we act." He noted that SJSU has already hired a new Title IX Director (who joins Perez from Sacramento State) and that the University will enhance relevant training and communication and will hold individuals accountable. Another Senator stated that the University needs to build a culture that rewards rather than punishes whistleblowers, and he asked for comments. Perez only offered some generic comments about the origin and value of whistleblower protection laws.

Chair Alison McKee is on leave for the spring semester and therefore unable to serve her full term of office for 2021-22.

Senators voted to re-elect McKee Senate Chair for 2022-23.

On the recommendation of the Professional Standards Committee, the Senate approved an amendment to the University's Retention, Tenure, and Promotion criteria to include, within the category of service, activities that specifically enhance inclusion, educational equity, and engaged service with students and in the surrounding and broader communities. The Senate also approved new guidelines for establishing and managing campus centers and institutes.

The report from Faculty Trustee Romey Sabalius (SJSU, World Languages and Literatures) was noteworthy for key news he shared. He said the most important item for faculty at the Trustees' meeting was the discontinuation of standardized examinations for admission to the

See next page . . .

Calendar . . .

TWO VIRTUAL EVENTS THIS SPRING

Wednesday, April 20, 11:30 am (Pacific Time)

- *Terry Christensen discusses Local Politics*

Friday, May 13th, 11:30 am (Pacific Time)

Annual Business Meeting:

- **Featured Speaker:**
Interim SJSU President Stephen Perez
- Election of Officers**

Zoom invitations will be sent as the dates approach.

Academic Senate and Campus News

From preceding page . . .

CSU (the SAT/ACT tests for undergraduate students). Important for SJSU was the news that the Trustee members of the search committee for the permanent president at SJSU have been determined, and Romey will be on the committee. He expects there will be meetings on the SJSU campus, possibly in person (if not, via zoom) in this spring semester, perhaps in April. An announcement of who the new president will be will probably go out at the end of the fall semester.

In mid-February Chancellor Joseph Castro resigned. Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer Steve Relyea is serving as acting chancellor until an interim chancellor is named. Besides a search, the Board of trustees will also launch an initiative to bring the CSU to the forefront of Title IX innovation, accountability and response.

Lastly, the Trustees got news of funding for the CSU offered by the governor in his January 2022 budget proposal. Romey characterized the budget proposal as including “the good, the bad, and the ugly.” The good part is that the governor has agreed with the CSU on a 5-year compact financing the CSU. In those five years, our state budget allocation should increase by 5% each year. The bad part is the allocation that is being given to us for our ongoing budget. The Trustees had asked for approximately \$650 million. The

governor has proposed to give the CSU about one third of that amount. The ugly part is our one-time allocations. We asked for \$1 billion to cover our deferred maintenance costs and, so far, the governor has only promised \$100 million. This sounds like a lot of money, but keep in mind the CSU has an identified need of \$23 billion in deferred maintenance costs. SJSU alone has deferred for maintenance costs that total \$600 million.

Associated Students President Anoop Kaur expressed student concerns about the recent news across the system, and at SJSU in particular, regarding Title IX issues. The problem is that the student community often hears updates, such as the one in the *SJ Mercury*, from various media outlets rather than directly from the campus.

Administration and Finance VP Faas reported that, on January 18, 2022, we brought in our new Chief of Police, Michael Carroll. Student Affairs VP reported that we have a new director for our new Asian Pacific Islander Desi-American (APID/A) Center. He also reported that Fall 2022 applications for frosh were up, while those for transfers were down. He expressed alarm that there are worrisome things happening when it comes to financial aid. Free applications for Federal Student Aid are down by 200,000 across the state. Educators involved are trying to determine the causes for this trend.

Remembering a Colleague

Richard Ellefsen (1931-2021)

By Bill Reckmeyer (Anthropology '11)

When I learned last fall that Dick Ellefsen had passed away the news brought back the many good memories I have of him. Dick was one of the first people I met after arriving on campus in 1977 and was one of the most impressive colleagues I knew during my 40 years at SJSU. Even though we worked in different departments, I saw him regularly around campus (especially when he was head of Graduate Studies in the 1980s) and I remember many interesting discussions over the years about our shared interests in sports cars, computers, and multidisciplinary research. I especially appreciated his genuine warmth, his wise counsel, and his quiet commitment to excellence in everything he did (he received the CSU Distinguished Teaching Award in 1966 and the SJSU Outstanding Professor

Award in 1975). Dick loved his career as a professor and as a practitioner at SJSU (1960-2000), so much so that he continued his highly-regarded consulting work for governmental agencies and private corporations well into retirement (1960-2016). I last saw Dick when I bumped into him and his son on a walk near our home in Willow Glen, shortly after his wife Arlene had passed away in 2016. I never realized they lived so close by, but we chatted for 20-30 minutes and he was still as gracious as ever. SJSU-ERFA colleagues who are interested in learning more should take a look at the nice memorial about Dick's life (<https://obituaries.bestfuneralservices.com/richard-dick-ellefsen/>). My understanding is that the family will be holding a Celebration of Life sometime this spring.

The Prince

By John Pollock



Illustration by Soni Alcorn-Hender

I was so much happier as a frog than I am as a prince:
all these simpering, obsequious courtiers,
these mind-numbing, endless budgetary meetings,
this having to squeeze myself every morning
into this ridiculously tight, stiff, gold and silver uniform,
only to keep tripping over this dumb sword
when it's not threatening to scrape
all the skin off the side of my leg.

Oh, for the days of squishing delightfully
along
muddy riverbanks,
of afternoons
snoozing blissfully
on Monet-like lily pads,
of never having to worry
I might select
the wrong fork at yet another grotesque banquet,
or commit some other *faux pas* that will leave
the court ladies giggling and gossiping
behind their embroidered fans.

Don't believe those Grimm Brothers.
I never sought the fair maiden's bed.
Some of us frogs want nothing more
than just to be left
alone
to enjoy
our blessed frogginess,
thank you very much.

Save The Dates!

Still mindful of the threat of Covid, we have scheduled two Zoom events for this spring. On April 20 at 11:30 a.m., Terry Christensen, Prof. Emeritus of Political Science and long-time observer of local politics, will talk about the upcoming local elections, which promise to be more than usually contentious and consequential.

Then at our May 13 Business Meeting (via Zoom at 1130 a.m.) our featured speaker will be Interim SJSU President Stephen Perez. You will also be asked to vote on the following slate of candidates recommended unanimously by the Executive Board: Vice President/President Elect to serve as VP 2022-2023 and President in 2023-24: Elaine Collins. Treasurer to serve

2022-2024: Bill Campsey. Member-at-Large for 2 years 2022-2024: Elba Maldonado-Colon. Academic Senate Representative: 2022-2023: Chris Jochim.

Zoom invitations will be emailed as the dates approach.

In Memoriam

Mina Garman (Dance, 2000) 1938-2021

Robert Witte (Psychology, 1995) 1932-2022

Did You Know



By Tim Hegstrom

1. Emeritus Faculty, Retired and FERP faculty with a Tower ID Card have the same library privileges as regular faculty. Loan privileges are for one year from date of check-out. Books not available at the MLK library can be requested from other libraries. Further, there is a library carrel equipped with appropriate electronics on the 4th floor of the library that is specifically to be used by emeritus faculty. <https://library.sjsu.edu/faculty-services/emeritus-retired-faculty>

2. Bookstore discounts are available to Emeritus Faculty. The university provides this information: "Show your faculty/staff Tower ID card at [the bookstore](#) register and receive a 10% discount on merchandise

(does not apply to sale items, electronics or text books)." The bookstore link also provides information about computer equipment, and so forth, that can be purchased on-line. You will want to do some price comparisons from other sources, of course. For example, the regular connectEd page on the Apple web-site routinely gives educators a reduced price at <https://www.apple.com/connectED> if you use your [sjsu.edu](#) mailing address. Also, here is a link that might help you find some software that can be obtained at a discount: To use this link, you will need to open an account, which is fairly easy to do once you log on. You will need to log-on using your [sjsu.edu](#) account, and you will need to have downloaded the Duo Security app. Some of these products require a six-month or annual subscription, so be aware before ordering. Here is another source with information about university installations of software. Some emeritus faculty might qualify; all FERP faculty would. <https://www.sjsu.edu/it/services/collaboration/software/instructions.php> .

In previous newsletters, we have discussed how retired lecturers may obtain Emeritus status and who to contact to get your Tower ID card updated for campus access. Read back copies of the newsletter at <https://www.sjsu.edu/emeritusfaculty/newsletter.php> .

Retired Nursing Faculty Zoom Meetings Continue

On Tuesday January 25th Mary Jo Gorney-Moreno, Marian Yoder and Sue Malloy hosted a Zoom meeting for 10 retired Nursing Faculty across the United States. They are enjoying their conversations so much they decided to

continue them. The next Zoom meeting is scheduled for May. All retired Nursing Faculty are welcome. Please send an email to Mary Jo Gorney-Moreno at mj.gorney-moreno@sjsu.edu if you would like to be added to the invitation list.

Chat Room... Special News from and about our members.

This column contains news about travels and activities volunteered by the membership. Members are invited to send news about themselves to Nancie Fimbel at fimbeln@gmail.com or by snail mail at 239 Cypress Point Drive, Mountain View, CA 94043

• **Roy Blitzer** (Organization & Management '19) and his wife Carol are enjoying grandparenting their daughter's adorable baby boy who lives in San Francisco. Roy says that two-year-old Leo is wonderfully rewarding and fun but very exhausting, too. Roy is writing his sixth book, following the careers of 20 or so students who, 10 to 13 years ago, created a Career Paper in his business class. He intends to see where they are in their professional lives compared to what they anticipated when they were college freshman. Watch for *Take the Fork in the Road When You Get There – Contemporary Career Journeys*.

• **Peter Buzanski** (History '96) wants us to know the best restaurants around. He has a Michelin-knowledgeable family member who says that Palo Alto's Fuki Sushi is the best restaurant for Japanese food this side of Tokyo. In Yountville, Thomas Keller's The French Laundry provides a meal that you (as well as your wallet) will remember for a very long time. For their 19th wedding anniversary in mid-March, Peter and Colleen will dine in Carmel where there is bound to be a Michelin-starred restaurant. They will celebrate the occasion with Colleen's son and his wife who married on St. Patrick's Day 17 years ago.

• **Bill DeVincenzi** (Accounting & Finance '13) is the Founder and President of the Sustainable Villages organization at the Villages in south San Jose where he and his wife Beth live. The objective of the organization is to make The Villages a model sustainable community. So far, there are 75 members. Bill continues to publish a weekly climate newsletter for all who are interested in keeping current on the climate crisis. You can sign up at "billdevincenzi@me.com"

• **Anne Fountain** (World Languages & Literature '12) taped a scholar's presentation for the Cuban Cultural Center of New York about José Martí's poetry and its worldwide reach. The talk, with accompanying slides, aired on January 28, 2022 and is now on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_3ezzXsh1c. On a cruise this month husband **Mike Conniff** will deliver presentations on the histories of the Caribbean Islands that he and Anne have prepared.

• **Bob Gliner** (Sociology '03) produced a new documentary titled *It's All About the Music*. It was filmed in the Santa Cruz Mountains and aired on PBS station KQED Plus in January. He describes the film this way: "A small mountain town becomes a catalyst for musicians crafting folk, blues and rock songs in a search for identity, purpose and community in an America transitioning between dissolution and hope. *It's All About the Music* provides a poignant and engaging look into the lives of largely unknown seasoned song writers and performers overcoming a lifetime of challenges while finding meaning on a road less traveled."

• **Pat Nichols** (Linguistics & Language Development '00) was invited to talk on Zoom in Jan. to a group in her retirement community that is exploring "anti-racism." Her talk was about the Gullah-Geechee community of South Carolina, whom she had worked among during her dissertation research. She says, "It was a joy to read over my old field notes and share my experiences with these Oregon residents. They were the most informed audience I've ever had." In February, the University of South Carolina Press, which published Pat's book *Voices of our Ancestors* in 2009, asked if they could publish a paperback and possible e-book of it. Completed in retirement, this book is about language contact between the three major groups in early South Carolina: Indigenous, African, and European people. Pat expresses her gratitude to the SJSU community for the small grants that made much of this research possible in the summers while she was still teaching.

• **Dennis L. Wilcox** (Journalism '05) reports that the 12th edition of his textbook *Public Relations Strategies & Tactics* (published by Pearson Education) is scheduled for publication at the end of 2022. He and his wife, Marianne, recently enjoyed a trip to Jordan and Egypt.

Remembering Bonny Doon in the 1930's

By Virginia Larsen

Part II

When I was a child, Bonny Doon was a beautiful and vast forested and agricultural area located fourteen miles from Santa Cruz on the Coast Range overlooking the Pacific. The area was home to wild animals: deer, skunks, raccoons, as well as mountain lions and, each summer, rattlesnakes sunning themselves in the bushes. All the animals were shy and avoided humans unless disturbed. The humans were primarily ranchers plus vineyard and orchard owners who had added horses, chickens, and cows to the animal population. All seemed to coexist peacefully with their wilder neighbors.

The flat ground was covered by fruit trees; the many hills by vineyards, which supplied grapes to wineries once Prohibition was no longer the law. Sheltering redwood groves dotted the pastures; these groves made great hideouts and castles for my sisters and me; many dramas unfolded in those groves.

The few businesses in Bonny Doon had been designed to fill the needs of farmers' families. Before the Great Depression, Louie Iacopetti's daughters ran a small grocery store on one corner of his orchards and grape vines. Mrs. Livingston ran a small post office from her living room.

During the depression retail sales of chickens and eggs were done from kitchens and front porches. Now there were no places in Bonny Doon for the convenience of residents; no gas station, nor medical offices, nor buses to town, nor soda shop, nor movie theater, nor beauty salons. Instead, we had to go to Santa Cruz to enjoy these amenities, so everyone had an automobile, mostly shabby Model T pickups.

However, we did enjoy a school for the children of the ranchers and hired hands. Grades 1 to 8 learned together, in one room with one teacher teaching all grades. The population of the school was small; I never shared a class with another



student. I started alone in the first grade and was alone when graduating from the eighth. I went from the smallest desk in front of the teacher's desk to the largest one in the last row. Once I finished my assignments I could read or I could draw!

The county board of education insisted on a school population of at least eight. Fewer than eight meant that the school might be closed as it was not economical to hire a teacher and maintain the school properly for fewer. Fortunately, when we were threatened, a dust-bowl victim with one child came to Bonny Doon, and we were saved!

In 1939 my life in Bonny Doon was no more. My stepfather was offered a job at the lumber company in Santa Cruz which had donated the redwood shakes for his cabin. City life, adulthood, and WWII eventually

intruded on my plans to visit the beautiful sheltering place which I loved so much.

The wildfires in 2020 made headlines about Bonny Doon and raised memories and questions about my life there: what happened to the redwood groves, the animals – the deer, the coyotes, the horses I had learned to ride, the cows my mother had finally learned to milk, the snakes warning us of their presence? Are any of

the houses of the landowners, the sheds and chicken coops which sheltered dust-bowl migrants, still there? Are the hardy daffodils still blooming in the spring as they did every other spring spreading their beauty and fragrance in the pastures? I'm reluctant to go back to Bonny Doon; all the things that offered me and my family security and happiness are gone.



Emeritus and Retired Faculty Biographies

Retirement Resources at the University

By Jo Bell Whitlatch

The ongoing ERFA Biographies project, found at https://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/erfa_bios/, is the most complete resource for information about retired faculty from SJSU. The project preserves information about the lives and contributions of retired faculty who have participated in the University community as teachers, counselors, librarians, scholars, and administrators. The project began with the publication of a book, "Biographies of Retired Faculty, San José State University," which was completed in 1997. The biographies have now moved from book form to online format.

Because the ERFA Biographies project has always been voluntary, biographies are not included for every retired SJSU faculty member; however, the biographies website still provides an excellent picture of the wide variety of contributions and interests of retired faculty.

With more than 350 biographies, the *Faculty Biographies* is a rich resource of information on many topics related to the University. Of particular interest to ERFA members are the many activities that faculty are enjoying in retirement. Several biographies, for example, that of Abdel El-Shaieb (https://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/erfa_bios/267/), include interviews concerning planning the transition to retirement. Jill Steinberg's biography (https://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/erfa_bios/353/) includes links and resources relating to her research, classes and presentations on successful retirement.

For additional information about the ERFA Biographies project, including how to participate in the project or how to update your current biography, contact Jo Bell Whitlatch at jobell.whitlatch@sjsu.edu

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www.sjsu.edu/emeritusfaculty

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editors or of San Jose State University.**

Updated ERFA Website

By Bethany Shifflett

SJSU undertook a multi-year project to overhaul its entire website; make it more mobile-friendly; establish greater consistency in structure, content, and tone; and ensure content is compliant with accessibility standards. ERFA was part of the last cohort to work with the outside consulting group

(Barkley REI) hired by SJSU to facilitate the work. The migration project which began in August 2021 was completed this January 2022. The URL to access the site is: <https://www.sjsu.edu/emeritusfaculty/>. Any questions can be directed to our website administrator (bethany.shifflett@sjsu.edu).