

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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Spring 2024

## **SJSU ERFA News, Spring 2024**

San Jose State University, Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

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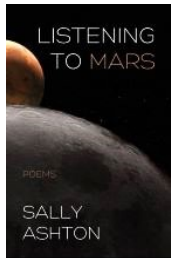
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SJSU ERFA

# Newsletter

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

## New Science Building Officially Opens

**By Nancie Fimbel**

At the end of January, SJSU President Cynthia Teniente-Matson, Provost Vincent Del Casino, Jr., College of Professional and Global Education Interim



Dean Michael Meth and College of Science Dean Michael Kaufman met in front of the new eight-floor Interdisciplinary Science Building (ISB) for a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open the building.

A new science facility has been needed, wanted, and planned for many years. Finally, in September 2018, the CSU Board of Trustees granted permission to the campus to move ahead. Over the last five years, we've watched the beautiful new facility take shape. Inside

its 164,000 square feet, there are teaching and research labs for biology and chemistry, collaboration spaces, faculty offices, and laboratory support areas. The nationally-acclaimed Wildfire Interdisciplinary Research Center will be situated on the seventh floor, and on both the seventh and eighth, data analytics, virtual reality, intelligent systems, and metaverse labs will become the Innovation Loft for the College of Professional and Global Education.

Each floor also contains a collaboration-mentoring hub where students can work on interdisciplinary projects, connect with faculty, and meet with industry partners. The building also houses an interdisciplinary collaboration space for high-performance computing for faculty across the College of Science.

Dean Kaufman is excited: "The ISB marks a new era for science and interdisciplinary research at SJSU. [We will be the place] preparing the next generation of scientific leaders." He wants to show off the new facility to us; he has agreed to give ERFA members a tour on April 12 from 10:30 to noon. Please come if you can and plan to stay for lunch somewhere nearby.

### **Mark Your Calendar!**

Friday, April 12, 10:30 to noon.

Tour the newly opened Interdisciplinary Science Building with Dean Michael Kaufman.

### **Save the Dates! Details to Come!**

Friday, May 3, 11:15 to 2:00

Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon at The Villages; cost \$35.

Wednesday, September 25, 2:30 to 4:00

Larry Gerston discusses the November election. On campus location TBD. Starting time 2:30 PM.

## Tribute to Benton White

By Chris Jochim

J. Benton White, retired San José State University professor and onetime President of ERFA, passed away on December 6, 2023 at the age of 92. Born in Birmingham, Alabama, Professor White graduated from the University of Alabama, Chandler School of Theology at Emory University, and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. He served as Campus Minister at the Wesley Foundation at the University of Nebraska, and in 1961 became the Director of the Wesley Foundation at SJSU.

Benton was active in the Civil Rights movement, recruiting students to participate in voter registration drives in the South during the Freedom Summer of 1964, while also working to secure housing for students of color in San José in the early 1960s. In response to student protests over segregated conditions on and around the campus community, he was asked in 1967 by then-SJSU President Robert Clark to be the University's first Ombudsman. In 1970, he established the Religious Studies program at San José State and developed the program until his retirement in 1992. He started the program as the only full-time faculty member, using a few adjuncts; and by the end, he was one of five full-time faculty, with many adjuncts. He did not completely abandon ministerial duties and, in fact, served as officiant for many weddings, baptisms, and memorials.

During retirement, Benton was an active ERFA officer and member and, also, taught as an adjunct professor at Santa Clara University. He loved golf and played it for as long as his body allowed. He is survived by his beloved wife, Mary Lou, and his sons and their wives, Tom and Julie and Matt and Elaine, his grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. A Celebration of Life will be held on April 6 from 1:30 to 3:30 at Almaden Hills United Methodist Church, 1200 Blossom Hill Road, San Jose.

### 2023-24 SJSU ERFA Executive Board

**President** — Elaine Collins

**Vice Pres.** — Winifred Schultz-Krohn

**Secretary** — Celia Bakke

**Treasurer** — Bill Campsey

**Members at Large** — Elba Maldonado-Colon,  
Carmen Sigler, Beth Von Till

**Academic Senator** — Chris Jochim

**Past President** — Mary Jo Gorney-Moreno

#### Ex Officio Members

**Archivist** — Celia Bakke

**Consolations** — Elba Maldonado-Colon

**CSU-ERFA Reps** — Nancie Fimbel, Chris Jochim,  
Joan Merdinger

**Liaison to the Tower Foundation** — Jackie Snell

**Website Administrator** — Bethany Shifflett

**Activities Com.** — Lonna Smith, Elba Maldonado-Colon,  
Lucy McProud

**Biographies Com.**— Joan Merdinger, Carol Christensen,  
Celia Bakke, Ji-Mei Chang,  
Jo-Bell Whitlatch

**Faculty Research and Creative Activity Com.**—  
Lucy McProud

**Film Com.**—Karl Toepfer

**Membership Com.** — Joan Merdinger, Beth Von Till,  
Susan McClory

**Newsletter Com.** — Nancie Fimbel, David Mesher

**Privileges & Advocacy Com.** — Tim Hegstrom,  
Nancie Fimbel, Bethany Shifflett

**Program Com.** — Carmen Sigler, Chris Jochim,  
Mary Jo Gorney-Moreno, Bill McCraw

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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 editors or of San José State University.**

## The Investiture of President Cynthia Teniente-Matson

### By Mary Jo Gorney-Moreno

One of the oldest academic traditions was celebrated for the 31<sup>st</sup> President of San José State

University, Cynthia Teniente-Matson, ED.D., on February 22, 2024, at Hammer Theatre.

It began with a joyous processional of dignitaries led by the SJSU Spartan Marching Band. The ceremony opened with the Land Acknowledgment and Protection offered by Joseph Torres, Ambassador of the

Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area. Many CSU, SJSU, and local political dignitaries next gave eloquent greetings and provided highlights of President Teniente-Matson's illustrious career.



For me, the stars of the ceremony were two incredibly poised and articulate SJSU students, Sarab Multani, President of Associate Students,

SJSU, and Autumn Alaniz-Wiggins, CSU President of Associated Students. They noted how quickly the President has built relationships over the past year as she engaged with them and actually listened to them; they have high hopes for the continued success of the university. Two other notable highlights were the performances by the SJSU Choraliers and the recitation of the "Century of Spartans" poem by alumnus and SJSU employee Keith Sanders. All who spoke "sang the praises" of Dr. Teniente-Matson for her

work in previous positions, leadership in national academic organizations, amazing energy and ability to tell the story of the place she refers to as "the anchor institution at the epicenter of the future."

## ERFA ScholarWorks Project Hits 369 Biographies

### By Jo Bell Whitlatch

One more entry has been added to the ERFA Biographies project.

Thalia Anagnos

[https://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/erfa\\_bios/370](https://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/erfa_bios/370)

Faculty are also able to update their biographies: Nils Peterson has provided additional information, with links to past speeches and updates on his current activities: see

[https://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/erfa\\_bios/25/](https://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/erfa_bios/25/)

ERFA members who are interested in creating a

biography or updating their current biography should contact Jo Bell Whitlatch via email at [jobellw@gmail.com](mailto:jobellw@gmail.com) or phone at 650-326-0505.

ERFA members may also want to take advantage of the opportunity to create an Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID) profile, which will make their scholarly work even more widely available. If you already have an ORCID profile, send the link to Jo Bell and she can add the profile link to your current ERFA Biography. For those interested in creating an ORCID profile, these slides from a recent library presentation provide a good guide: <https://tiny.sjsu.edu/orcid-workshop>.

## 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](mailto:fimbeln@gmail.com) or by snail mail at 239 Cypress Point Drive, Mountain View, CA 94043.

**Phyllis Connolly** (Nursing, '11), reporting for the retired Nursing faculty, has this news: the retired nurses continued their Zoom calls in 2023 and plan to continue in the foreseeable future. If you want to be included, send an email to [fimbeln@gmail.com](mailto:fimbeln@gmail.com), and I (Nancie) will get you on the list. Dr. Lisa Rauch has been confirmed as the Director of the School of Nursing for a 4-year term.

**Bill DeVincenzi** (Accounting & Finance, '13) has been appointed to two local Commissions: first, the Santa Clara County Sustainability Commission, advising the county Board of Supervisors on their Sustainability Master Plan by representing residents and businesses on sustainability issues. Second, the SJ Climate Advisory Commission, advising the City Council as a "community voice" on the city's climate policies. Your representative, if you live in Santa Clara County or the City of San José, is ready to hear from you on issues of sustainability and climate!

**Gail Evans** (Kinesiology, '13) was elected President of the HOA of the Monteville Community of Scotts Valley in November. She says it sometimes feels as if she is working full-time again, but she loves the community and feels honored to serve. She invites us to take a look ([Monteville.org](http://Monteville.org)) and maybe even join her in living there.

**Larry Gerston** (Political Science, '09) has just published his 14th book, *Trumpism, Bigotry and the Threat to American Democracy*; it's his fourth since "retiring" in 2009. He recently appeared on CNN to discuss the life and legacy of Senator Dianne Feinstein. Larry has been the on-air political analyst at NBC Bay Area for the last 44 years.

**David Middlebrook** (Fine Arts, '10) has had two sculptures, one a life-size canoe held aloft by several 8-foot-high bamboo poles, accepted at the Venice

Biennale, one of the world's most prestigious art festivals, beginning in April.

**Patricia Stroh** (Beethoven Center, '22) was awarded a CSU ERFSA grant. Her creative project is *Beethoven GPS: A Guide to the Collected Editions of the Piano Sonatas*. The grant will help her jumpstart the vital online component of a forthcoming book by paying for a professional web designer for consultation and preliminary template design. The companion website will include links to digitized copies of music scores and illustrations of title pages, as well as a discussion forum for piano teachers and their students. Congratulations!

**Kim S. Uhlik** (Recreation, '11) has completed a book manuscript titled "WHY Relationships Go Bad & HOW to Make Them Better." It introduces readers to both a theory of partnership and a practical method with which to apply that theory to their personal and professional relationships. Kim is on the hunt for a publisher.

**Federico Varona** (Communication Studies, '24) has two new publications: "Appreciative Research from the Appreciative Paradigm: a new research model for the social sciences" will be published this year in *AI Practitioner Journal*. His article "The Appreciative Paradigm: from methodology to paradigm" was published in the same journal in November 2023.

Also Noted: A few years ago, **Tim Hegstrom** (Communication Studies '10), **Mike Conniff** and Jason Aleksander answered a charge from the SJ Rotary president to promote more collaboration between the Rotary and SJSU. Among their accomplishments are a service club for college age participants, donations to the SJSU Cares pantry, publicity among Rotarians for campus events, and tours of the campus for Rotarians.

## Coming Close

-after Charles Wright

light seen beneath the waves  
glints against suspended sand.  
A giant sea turtle appears  
swims past so near  
in the sun-streaked waters—

*Honu*, sacred creature,  
I can't translate wonder.  
I can't say anything new.  
Why do I wrestle with words  
long after you've gone?

And the little waves say *sh-sh-h-h* to me,  
and the big waves say, *go home*.  
The sand says . . . nothing. And the Moon  
trailing after the morning says  
*see, see?* without making a sound.

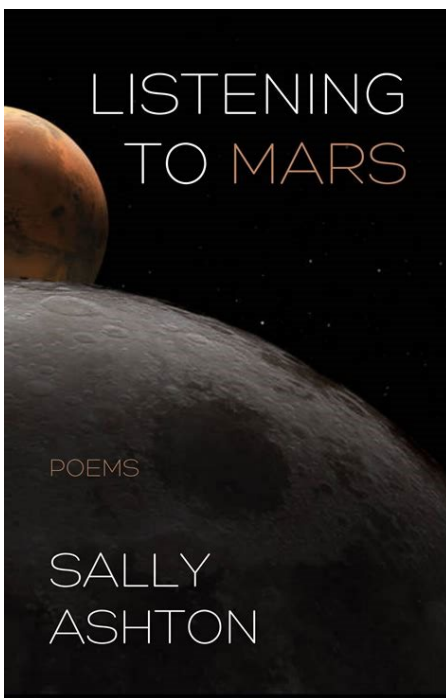
## The night was too beautiful

to ever write a poem about—  
stars out, satellites, cricket song—  
the night too beautiful, memory a penstroke  
of summer's air, the earth cooling silence.

What was it there that night too beautiful  
for a common tongue, an owl-call, something  
rustling in the bushes, a nearby mosquito  
hum that night I sat in a lawn chair in  
the dark, sky-watching for a comet's tail,  
waiting for celestial sights. But then

a barn owl crossed overhead wing-wide  
open, a different feral light too  
beautiful—to  
beautiful to ever write a poem about.

**Sally Ashton** is emerita (but still teaching) in the SJSU English department, as well as editor-in-chief of *DMQ Review*. She served as the Santa Clara County Poet Laureate (2011-13), and is the author of four volumes of poetry, including, most recently, *Listening to Mars* ([Cornerstone Press, UWSP, 2024](#)), available at [Barnes and Noble](#), from which all these poems have been selected, and are used by permission of the author.



Quantum Sense

## Coda

In spring, I'm afraid. Everywhere life rises again, noisy, brisk, airy green. There is no stopping it, at least not yet. I want to be that reckless, to throw myself noisy into the warming days. So much lost, I can't help wearing winter like a necklace—to know where the season leads, the end of growth, the waning of life. It may not seem like courage to let go of confinement, the safe and quiet room, the dark seed, the eggshell. To pick up again and head out an open door. It is to reawaken, to leave behind the dream life, trade it for, yes, life to live, to lose.

A flash, rust-gray. Call it deep mind. Ears and probes, bird as spacecraft, seeing with feathers. Feel astonishment. To read light. To follow the magnetic field, Earth's poles entangled in their cells signaling a flightpath, the way of return no matter how far away they are, beckoned, something like lights on a runway. As faithful as the steps of cattle. Electrons spin correspondingly, a compass of light inside the robin's eye, a bright place you will never see into or out of, a ring of white feathers. You wish you could re-member. A certainty. A way of being. The robin cocks its head, a vanished moment, silent out of sight, empty branch, wings into another sky.

## Quantum Migration

It's a peculiar morning of signs, one of many. Mars' ancient riverbed appears, riven trail of pebbles and sand, and still the Moon's synchronous rotation hides its far side from us. We will never see from Earth. So it seems we must go to both these places, planet, satellite, the speculation that is space travel. To see for ourselves. To touch with our cameras, to feel with metal avatars, to listen for the sounds of stars rushing through the skies like the sound the air makes rushing past bare ears. Maybe we're seeking a geography for loss, the geometry and calculus, our missing equation? Maybe we don't know what it is we need to know, only the gravitational pull, the magnetic spin of the unknown reverberating there, repeating in the hollow center of our bones.

## Campus Academic Senate News

### By Chris Jochim

There were two Senate meetings so far this spring, one on February 5, and another on February 26. At the first of these, Senators voted to elect Senate Chair Karthika Sasikumar to serve for another year, making her a two-year Chair.

In her budget report, President Teniente-Matson reminded the Senate that she had asked the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) for recommendations on creating a structurally sound budget. Last year the BAC recommended about \$23 million in budget adjustments. In this budget year SJSU faced a reduction of \$20 million, leading to a “soft” hiring freeze for all hires except instructional faculty. Department heads and administrators are to proceed only with essential expenditures. By doing so, SJSU hopes to grow end-of-the-year reserves that will reduce the shortfall and the amount of the “internal loan” borrowed from other funds to cover the deficit in the operating budget. The Provost and the VP, Administration and Finance, will be hosting a budget town hall in the spring. One line item will be a return of funds to the CSU Reserves in 2025/26.

One policy recommendation was presented: Senators approved AS 1863, creating a new campus policy on Credit for Prior Learning. SJSU has had two policies related to credit earned from examinations and no policy addressing academic credit earned from other forms of prior learning. This new policy puts SJSU in compliance with the CSU Executive Order on Prior Learning, which calls for allowing students to earn credit for prior learning in four categories: (1) examinations, (2) learning, skills, and knowledge acquired through experience, (3) learning acquired outside formal higher education and/or (4) education, training and service provided by the Armed Forces of the United States.

Other important business included a report from the Committee on Senate Representation by Co-Chairs Janet Sundrud and Reiko Kataoka. This committee has been charged with investigating the matter of expanded representation in the Senate, e.g., by staff, students, or others who are not now well represented. In this interim report, the committee indicated it will have a final report in two months.

At the February 26 meeting, President Teniente-Matson

focused her report on the February 19 incident that resulted from a protest against a guest speaker discussing Israel and Palestine in a Jewish Studies class. Her aim was to present as objectively as she could the timeline of occurrences, indicating that anything more conclusive about improper conduct or a violation of laws or campus policies would be reported after the conclusion of the investigation that is ongoing. She was asked many questions, concerning, for example, whether or not the faculty member placed on administrative leave (Jonathan Roth, History) was being paid (her answer was “yes”); whether many protestors who were not students should have been prevented from entering a classroom building (Sweeney Hall), whether administrators and faculty (in addition to Professor Roth and the class instructor Linda Landau) were present and protesting, and whether there may have been a violation of the free speech rights of protestors or of the class students, instructor, and guest speaker.

Senators considered one policy recommendation that turned out to be more controversial than expected. The Professional Standards Committee proposed AS 1861, an Amendment to University Policy F17-3, Selection and Review of Department Chairs and Directors. The recommendation, which ultimately was approved, was mainly for the purpose of adding language to the policy that would clarify the calendar for the selection and review process so that there would be adequate time after the conclusion of the review process for interested faculty to decide about running for chair and for other faculty to attend presentations by candidates and make their recommendation to their college dean. An unanticipated and controversial matter arose when Senator Pinnell (Political Science) proposed an amendment to add “lecturer faculty” to the following policy sentence: “Only the name of a faculty candidate who receives a majority of votes cast by the tenured and probationary faculty shall be recommended to the President via the College Dean as the nominee of the department” (Sec. 3.1). After considerable discussion, a motion was passed to refer the matter back to committee, because committee members had not yet discussed it and because this change might necessitate other changes in the policy. For many present, it was a surprise that this seeming disenfranchisement of lecturers had been written into campus policy.

President Teniente-Matson thanked ERFA heartily for the watercolor portrait by our colleague Sheldon Borenstein that we used for last year's invitation to our annual luncheon. Here's the gift we gave her:



## In Memoriam

### Robert Clarke

(Psychology, 1962-1993)

**Kenneth Kellum**, aka Captain Calculus  
(Mathematics, 1981-2015)

### Robert Moore

(Dean, Division of Technology, CASA, 1959-1983)

[https://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/erfa\\_bios/193/](https://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/erfa_bios/193/)

### William Tillinghast

(Journalism & Mass Communication, 1975-2018)

## Did you know?

By Bethany Shifflett

Guess what? The library resources that are available to SJSU faculty are also available to emeritus faculty. Here are some examples; just click on the links to access them:

 [A liaison librarian](#)

 [Online tutorials](#)

 [Open access publishing support](#)

 [Digital scholarship services](#)



Second, we remind you that emeritus faculty can use the Adobe Express design software provided FREE to all faculty, students, and staff at the university. It makes it easy to design posters, webpages, and videos. Adobe Express is included in the Adobe license. To get your license and for more information see [Adobe Creative Cloud for Employees](#).

Finally, emeriti faculty are welcome to attend graduation ceremonies. Check with your department for the date your majors will be graduating. If you would like to represent ERFA as part of the platform party, contact ERFA President Elaine Collins at [elaine.collins@sjsu.edu](mailto:elaine.collins@sjsu.edu).

Click here to read [back copies](#) of the newsletter.



# Changes Coming to Faculty Profiles Supported by Elsevier But NOT to ERFA ScholarWorks Biographies

## By Joan Merdinger

The ERFA Biographies Committee was recently notified by the SJSU Library that Elsevier, the service provider for all faculty profiles (e.g. <https://works.bepress.com/>) is discontinuing the platform used for those profiles, and as a result, the Library will no longer be able to support individual faculty profiles past the end of May 2024. It is important to note that the SJSU Library did not make this decision. It is a decision of Elsevier to discontinue this particular application which is a part of their overall educational product.

## What Is Affected by This Change?

Please note that this change will only affect faculty profile pages themselves, and not the articles, book chapters, datasets, pedagogical materials and other files that are linked to a faculty member's bepress profile. Only pages whose URLs begin with <https://works.bepress.com/> will be affected by this change.

## What is Not Affected by This Change?

Your SJSU ERFA ScholarWorks biography will continue to be available through SJSU ScholarWorks, SJSU's institutional repository (<https://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/>). Any pages whose URLs begin with <https://scholarworks.sjsu.edu> will continue to be available. Our ERFA Biographies Project will continue to invite ERFA members to submit their biographical materials for inclusion in the

ERFA Biographies project. To date, we have 369 faculty biographies posted.

## What is ERFA Doing to Assist with This Change?

The Biographies Committee has identified about 50 ERFA members who have both ERFA ScholarWorks Biographies and faculty profiles in ScholarWorks. To ensure that we retain the information located in the current faculty profiles, ERFA Biographies Committee members Jo Bell Whitlatch and Ji-Mei Chang will add the faculty profile information to the ERFA ScholarWorks Biography when it is not already included in each ERFA ScholarWorks Biography, and then provide the faculty member an opportunity to review the updated ERFA ScholarWorks Biography with a request for revisions. In addition to the 50 identified ERFA members with faculty profiles, there are about eight additional ERFA members who have faculty profiles, but do not have ERFA ScholarWorks Biographies. For those eight ERFA members, the Biographies Committee will be creating an ERFA ScholarWorks Biography based on the faculty profile and will then provide the faculty member with an opportunity to review the newly created ERFA ScholarWorks Biography and request changes.

If you have any questions about this topic, please email [jobellw@gmail.com](mailto:jobellw@gmail.com).