

San José State University Emeritus Faculty Association Biography

Name: Peter M. BUZANSKI

Department: History

Academic Rank: Professor

Year Retired: 1992; FERP 1992-1996

City of Residence: Monte Sereno CA



Facebook Page or Website URL:

Birthplace: Vienna, Austria

Birth Year: 1929

Marital Status: Married **Spouse or Partner's Name:** Colleen Bickman

Children's Names: Catherine, David

No. of Grandchildren: **No. of Great Grandchildren:**

Colleges or Universities Attended:	Year	Degree
University of California, Berkeley	1950	BA
University of California, Berkeley	1952	MA
University of California, Berkeley	1960	PhD

Teaching Experience:	From	To
American River Junior College	1956	1959
San José State University	1960	1996
California State University, Hayward	1971	1971
University of Colorado	1965	1965

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Administrative, Business, or Professional Experience (other than teaching):

American Council of Education, Fellow in Academic Administration, 1971-1972

Selected Publications:

"The Inter Allied Investigation of the Greek Invasion of Smyrna, 1919," *The Historian*, May 1963, 325 43.

"Alaska and Nineteenth Century American Diplomacy," *Journal of the West*, July 1967, 451 67.

"Izmirin 1919. . . ," *Journal of the Turkish Armed Forces*, Spring 1965, 64 7 1.

Personal Commentary (please limit comments to one page):

I was born in Vienna, Austria, where I completed the first three grades of elementary school. Following the Anschluss, the annexation of Austria by Germany, I was sent to Gothenburg, Sweden, where I completed the fourth grade of elementary school. After being reunited with my parents in New York, in 1940, the family moved to Berkeley, where I learned English, my third language, and completed my public and university education. I became a proud American citizen on July 4, 1945.

In 1956, I met Christie Roberts, a California native, having been born in San Francisco, and we were married in the fall of 1957. After completing the doctorate in history in 1960, a vacancy at San Jose State College was called to my attention by a Berkeley colleague and friend, Gerald E. Wheeler. From that time on, I taught at SJSU where I was eventually given the opportunity to teach in my area of specialization, United States Diplomatic History. Even before, however, I developed an outlet for my interest in foreign policy, through a weekly radio program called "Commentary." It was begun and regularly carried as the only talk program on an otherwise all classical music station, KRPM. When that station underwent ownership, name, and format changes, the program was

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transferred to the Campus radio station, KSJS.

Christe died in January 2002 after more than 44 years of marriage. Two years later, in March 2004 I married Colleen Bickman, the widow of one of my M.A. history students. Colleen had lived in Mechanicsburg, PA when her husband, Tom, died, and in 2004 Colleen and I rented a truck to accommodate her four cats and we drove to my home in Monte Sereno.

Faculty governance, through the mechanism of the Academic Senate, has always been of great importance to me. I therefore ran for election, and was reelected to the Senate almost from its beginning in the days of President Robert Clark until just prior to my retirement. Numerous policies, some still in place today, are the result of my Senate service. I have now served on the Executive Board of the Emeritus Faculty Association (EFA) since 1998 when I accepted the offer to represent EFA on the Academic Senate as a voting Senator. At this time, 2009, Ted Norton and I are the longest living Senators in the history of the Academic Senate. Ted is an honorary Senator while I am a voting member. In my spare time I volunteer with the Friends of the Saratoga Library where my responsibility consists of pricing, sorting, and placing on the shelves of The Book Go Round, the Book Store run by the Friends on an entirely volunteer, unpaid position. I deal with all donated history and political science books. Since the Book Store, which opened in 1983 is open seven days a week, it currently nets over \$150,000 annually, the entire sum being turned over to support the Saratoga Public Library.

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