

## San José State University Emeritus Faculty Association Biography

**Name:** Robert J. Ramonda  
**Department:** Elementary Education  
**Academic Rank:** Professor  
**Year Retired:** 1993  
**City of Residence:** San Jose, CA



**Facebook Page or Website URL:**

**Birthplace:** San Francisco, CA      **Birth Year:** 1925

**Marital Status:** Married      **Spouse or Partner's Name:** Esther

**Children's Names:** Janine Ramonda, Marc Ramonda, Lynette Fisher

**No. of Grandchildren:** 5      **No. of Great Grandchildren:** 0

<b>Colleges or Universities Attended:</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Degree</b>
San Francisco State College	1950	BA English and Psychology
San Francisco State College	1951	Elementary School Teaching Credential
San Francisco State College	1956	MA Elementary School Administration and Supervision
University of California Berkeley	1960	Ed.D. Education

<b>Teaching Experience:</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
San Francisco Unified School District	1951	1959
San Jose State University	1959	1993

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USOE Bilingual Education Grants, Palau (Summers)	1980	1984
USOE Bilingual Education Grants, Saipan (Summers)	1982	1989
USOE Bilingual Education Grants, Ponape (Summers)	1987	1988
University of Guam (Summer)	1985	1985
College of the Marianas (Summer)	1985	1985
Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand (Summer)	1989	1989
Chaing Mai University, Chaing Mai, Thailand (Summer)	1989	1989
University of Alaska Southeast, Juneau (Summers)	1995	1996

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

Director, Elementary Intern Teaching Program, San Jose State University  
Coordinator, M.A. Program with a focus on reading, San Jose State University  
Coordinator, Reading Specialist Credential Program, San Jose State University

### **Selected Publications:**

"The Disadvantaged Child," with Sidney W. Tiedt, et al.  
"Reading Games and Devices," with John E. Morlan  
"Classroom Learning Centers," with John E. Morlan, et al  
"Read, Write, React: An Integrated Approach to Reading and Writing," with  
Lonna H. Smith

### **Personal Commentary (please limit comments to one page):**

There I was, standing by the mailbox, letter in hand, debating with myself, "Should I or shouldn't I?"

Suddenly, a voice sounded from my automobile parked near the curb, "Drop it in the box or not. It's getting late, and it's time to go home!"

It was my sister-in-law who was accompanying my wife and me. Startled, I let the letter slip from my grasp, and the deed was done.

What was this letter? Why was I vacillating over whether or not to mail it? Did I really want to send it to San Jose State College accepting a position as an assistant professor? I wasn't sure I wanted the job. It would mean moving from my San Francisco home to a town fifty miles away in what we considered to be "out in the country" and leaving a teaching job that provided security and more

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money than I would receive at San Jose State.

As the letter slipped from my fingers, a multitude of concerns crossed my mind. Teaching adult students rather than children, building new professional relationships and the unknown expectations of this new job weighed heavily. But my arm wasn't long enough to reach in and retrieve the letter, so I would just have to make the best of it. And so I did.

The result was a challenging, exciting thirty-three year career at SJS where teaching was valued and colleagues were stimulating and supportive. Through the auspices of the University, I was able to live and teach in Saipan, Pohnpei, Palau and Thailand. Collaborating with colleagues on research projects and publications was appealing, and I still count many of them among my close friends. Looking back, I found that dropping that letter (with help from my sister-in-law) was the best non-decision I ever made.

**Date Completed:** March 1, 2010