

San José State University Emeritus Faculty Association Biography

Name: Gabriele Lusser Rico

Department: English and
Comparative Literature;
Creative Arts

Academic Rank: Professor

Year Retired: 2008

City of Residence: Cupertino, CA



Facebook Page or Website URL: www.writingthenaturalway.com

Birthplace: Augsburg, Germany **Birth Year:** 1937

Marital Status: Married **Spouse or Partner's Name:** Richard B. Ressman, M.D.

Children's Names: Stephanie Rico, Suzanne Rico, Simone Rico

No. of Grandchildren: four **No. of Great Grandchildren:** n/a

Colleges or Universities Attended:	Year	Degree
San José State University	1959	B.A.
San José State University	1964	M.A.
Stanford University	1976	Ph.D.

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Teaching Experience:	From	To
Camden H.S., San José, CA	1959	1964
San José City College	1963	
San José State University	1964	2008

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

Worldwide Speaker on brain research, writing, & creativity, 1976-present

SJSU Director of Composition in English; Coordinator of Upper Division Writing Exam campus-wide. Teacher of Writing Intensives for many years.

Publisher, Natural Way Publishing, 2011 - present

Selected Publications:

Carlson & Rico, *Western Literature: Themes and Writers*, McGraw-Hill, 1974

Writing the Natural Way, 1983, 2000. Tarcher/Penguin

Pain and Possibility: Writing Your Way through Personal Crisis, Tarcher, 1991

Guth & Rico, *Discovering Literature*, Prentice-Hall, 1992

Creating Re-Creations: Inspiration from the Source; Absey Press 2002

Guth & Rico, *Writing in a Changing World*, Allyn & Bacon, 2003; etc.

Personal Commentary:

An immigrant from Germany (my Father was a German Rocket scientist), I didn't speak English until I was almost 12. I wanted so badly to *belong* to America, I spoke almost without accent within seven months. Because of war's ruffled aftermath, I attended only 9 months total of elementary school as a fourth grader in a tiny country school combining eight grades. My mother, killed in a bombing raid just before war's end, was replaced by a step-mother who added four children to the five he already had, making my teenage years complicated, including yearly moves and four high schools, the last at the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, AL.

I matriculated at U.C. Berkeley, discovering that its out-of-state tuition was prohibitive, my finances forcing me to shift to SJSU. I have never been sorry. Not only did I learn much from my caring professors, but I ended up teaching at SJSU for 40 years. Betwixt and between, I was—to my shock—accepted at Stanford in a self-designed major involving brain research and creativity which led to the writing of books, articles, and to a circuit of many speeches, radically changing the trajectory of my life. This research yielded a brainstorming process, Clustering, which is a staple of schools, corporations, software, and textbooks today.

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I became a passionate writer, was selected President's Scholar in 1986, chosen Teacher/Scholar in 1991, and held an Endowed Chair at Notre Dame in Belmont, CA. in 1992.

I haven't "retired." I'm actively working on three books: a Memoir of my wartime childhood, ending with my arrival in America; a book entitled, *Write to Fly Again*; and the most challenging, how intensifying human time-consciousness (involving brains research findings, literature, and physics) has developed civilization and culture. Whether or not I can complete this daunting challenge remains a question.

Last year, against my better judgment, I started a small Publishing house to give worthy books—which are lost in the grand jungle of publishing— a chance to see the light of day. I've published two to date, have seven more in the queue (two by former SJSU students). Crazy, I know, but I'm giving back.

Survivor of two cancers, each day I am grateful for the privilege of being an American, for my long, productive participation in the SJSU community, which simultaneously gave me the freedom to spread my wings to fly in unanticipated directions, and for the ongoing gift of learning, leading to ever-new challenges.

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