By Joan Merdinger
As your new President this year, I’d like to welcome you back to the new academic year on behalf of the ERFA Board. I am an Emerita Professor of Social Work, and prior to retiring in 2012, I served as the AVP/Faculty Affairs. I’ve enjoyed my career at SJSU and am happy to be associated with ERFA as a way of continuing my University service. I’d also like you to know that your Board has been working diligently to bring you stimulating programs and events again this year to keep us all connected to SJSU. As part of our stated mission to contribute to the University, we’re initiating the ERFA Faculty Research and Creative Activity Award this year. We plan to award $2500 to up to two candidates to support scholarly research and creative activities among our on-campus colleagues. We intend to offer these awards each year and will be accepting applications beginning in Fall 2014. SJSU-ERFA will oversee the competitive process with assistance from the Provost’s Office and the Center for Faculty Development.

As for stimulating events, please make sure you put the ERFA Fall Luncheon on your calendars. It will take place on Friday, October 24th, at Mariani’s in Santa Clara. Our speaker will be Dr. David Wagner, professor emeritus from Sacramento State and current Chair of the CSU-ERFA Committee on Health Benefits. His presentation will cover the upcoming changes to CalPERS and their effects on Long Term Care and health benefits. It should be most informative, as well as timely.

We also look forward to seeing you at our annual Holiday Celebration in December. It’s always a wonderful way to bring the calendar year to a close with an informal gathering of friends and colleagues in a convivial atmosphere. As for our Spring 2015 Excursion, I want to thank those of you who answered the survey I sent out this summer asking about your interests, and soliciting your suggestions. The Board will review your votes and preferences and announce its decision in an upcoming Newsletter. Finally, we’ll wrap up this 2014-2015 year with our annual Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting at The Villages in May. I hope to see you there as well.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can this year. If you’d like to contact me, I can be reached at jmmerdinger@yahoo.com.

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

President’s Message
Staying connected to the University

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No fading away here
Info available on SJSU retirees

By Jo Bell Whitlatch (Library)
After we retire, many of us seem to disappear into the empyrean. Except for close friends and a few SJSU-ERFA members, we lose touch with most of our colleagues, both predecessors and successors. Even though some retirees leave behind scholarships in their name, we, like current faculty and students, find it difficult to know much about them.

To find information about our colleagues, one useful source is the collection of San Jose State University College Catalogs, which generally include faculty members’ dates of appointment at SJSU, their degrees and granting institutions. Many of these SJSU College Catalogs are still available.

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Remembrance of Things Past
Fred Schutz leads us to realize that wars are not all bad (page 4), while Calvin Stevens tells us what life was like for his family on the western plains (page 5).
At SJSU, students felt insufficient numbers during the courses were not being offered and two other CSU campuses for misappropriation of funds. He claimed that because required courses were not being offered in sufficient numbers during the regular sessions, students felt forced to attend alternate classes offered through the International and Extended Studies program (IES) for which they had to pay excessive fees. SJSU came in for much public criticism in the local press and in a KQED morning radio program where President Mo attempted to defend his actions with little success. Secondly, the CLA criticized SJSU for misappropriating those IES funds. The Chancellor's Executive Order requires that the percentage of IES funds earned be used only for IES purposes, whereas SJSU returned much of those funds to the campus general fund. SJSU Provost Feinstein had already instructed all College deans that the IES funds could not be so used. He knew the controversy this misuse caused among department and program chairs who needed funds, earned by their faculties, to supplement their ever-shrinking budgetary appropriations.

In this Fall's rankings of national universities, SJSU was ranked in eighth place among western institutions and in 54th place among all US universities in the US News and World Report magazine. However, the Washington Monthly, a forty-four year old magazine well known for its liberal perspective, failed to provide a ranking for SJSU. The Monthly uses more diverse criteria, like percentage of students with Pell Grants, social mobility, research and service. Understandably, the Monthly uses categories where SJSU should not be evaluated, such as 'Top 30 National Universities' and 'Top Affordable Elite,' but in one important category, "The Top 100 Master's Universities," SJSU was excluded from competition, despite its two CSU campuses—several much smaller ones—were evaluated; SJSU's exclusion was disturbing. After the SJSU Provost was alerted, he launched an investigation which is still ongoing. All that is known so far is that our exclusion was not caused by an institutional refusal to respond to an inquiry. No inquiry had been made.

You may recall that the Academic Senate's motion early this year asking the Chancellor's office to review existing problems on this campus resulted in the Chancellor's open letter to the faculty regarding steps that need to be taken. In the first Senate meeting this Fall, members were informed

Rebecca Herrold (Music) passed away on May 5, 2014, at the age of 75. Rebecca was born in Warren, PA, in 1938, and by the end of high school, as an accomplished violinist, she was awarded two scholarships to the Univ. of Miami where she took her BA in Music in 1960. She married a fellow music student, cellist StephenHerrold, the role of the federal government in education, the social and cultural foundations of education, and teaching disadvantaged children. He not only taught teachers throughout the Bay Area, but conducted classes and workshops as far away as Iran, Crete, the Marianas and the Island of Saipan. Sid leaves behind his wife Sheila, four children and one grandchild.

John Merdinger (Academic Senator)By Peter Buzanski

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**My Happy Life in the Army**

By Fred Schutz (English)

I was drafted into the US Army in 1943, and after basic training I read on a bulletin board about a program called ASTP (Army Specialized Training Program) which had four branches of college studies—medicine, psychiatry, language, and engineering. The first three required previous college credits for admission—the engineering program did not. The program was devised to meet a potential lack of certain professionals if the war lasted a long time. I applied for the engineering program as a way to acquire some college education, and was sent to William and Mary. I had only taken an algebra course in high school, but this program took me through algebra, trig, analytic geometry, calculus, engineering drawing, chemistry, and physics, some 70-plus units in all—all packed into a few short months.

I have never studied harder—I studied and read a book while walking through the campus (classrooms and buildings were only vague shadows), sometimes even studied a book in a bar with a date! I somehow navigated with a book in front of me. How thick those shadows were became clear to me when, many years later, I showed my wife around the William and Mary campus. As we walked, I realized that I hardly recognized the walkways or buildings. The past was only a haze, a wonderful cloudy haze of confused memories of that time.

When the program was shut down in 1944, I was assigned to an artillery unit among the forces that were about to invade the Philippines. Thus I arrived in Manila. And there I had great good fortune. I applied to Stars and Stripes, where I was given a vocabulary test and then assigned as a staff writer. I worked princi- pally on a paper called Maptai, designed to furnish current news from back home to the military. I came to know many of the writers there and, with a partner, started a magazine called The Philippine-American. It was modeled on Time magazine with its red border, and Time covered it in an article called “Foxhole Baby.” The Time article described how we got $625 from a Philip- pine lawyer and with a few hundred more of our own funds began publish- ing, “Manilans took a shine to their brash love of controversy. One of their articles explained how Filipinos felt they were being forced to collaborate with Americans, or else. Another took American GIs to task for criticizing our brash love of controversy. They, in turn, described how we got the Filipinos.”

By Calvin Howes Stevens, (Geology)

My ancestors immigrated to southeastern Montana from Massachusetts in 1880, becoming the first Caucasians to settle in the area. They initially put down roots on the Tongue River, but later relocated to a place called Otter Creek, which they considered better for raising cattle. My grandfather, Levi Howes, was eight years old at the time and at that young age one of his major concerns was running into snakes in the grass. He said he once asked his father, “Does there always have to be a snake in the grass?” “No,” his father replied, “but you can never be too careful.”

Six years later, when Levi was 14 years old, tension developed between the settlers and local Indians. Despite his age, he was assigned by his father to watch part of the family’s herd of cattle which were grazing across a creek from an encampment of Indians. Levi admitted to me years ago, that, on his first evening there, he became frightened by the sounds of drums and incantations on the other side of the creek. So he packed up his bedroll and took off to spend that night, and succeeding ones, at a friendly ranch farther from the Indian encampment. Fortunately, no trouble ensued.

Sometime later, Levi’s father made friends with one of the Indian chiefs called “Wooden Leg.” As far as my family and the other ranchers in the area were concerned, peace had been established. Later, however, tensions developed again, and in 1897 an Indian uprising was anticipated. This resulted in the construction of a small primitive fort composed of irregular slabs of sandstone on the crest of a barren hill at my family’s ranch. This “fort,” now a historic site called Fort Howes, was the result of one room large enough to accommodate about a dozen men, with openings in the walls left for observation and shooting, and a roof composed of rough planks. The women and children were evacuated to Sheridan, Wyoming, about 70 miles away, while the men gathered and planned to retreat to the fort to fight, if necessary. Again, nothing transpired.

In the following years famines struck the Indian communities. I remember my mother talking about how Indians would come to the ranch. They never knocked at the door but instead pressed their faces against the windows, indicating their hunger. My grandmother always provided food and sometimes clothing when necessary. After the food was distributed, our family watched these sad, hapless, subclassed people disappear over the hills, only to return during the next famine.

The interaction between a family member and an Indian took place many years later when my mother, Levi’s daughter, answered a knock at the front door in Sheridan, Wyoming. She was met by an old Indian warrior who said he was destitute and had heard she was a friend of the Indians. My mother replied she was willing to help and walked back to her bedroom to retrieve her purse. When she turned around she was startled and alarmed to find the Indian had followed her unnoticed through the house. Somewhat shaken, she quickly handed him a few dollars. He smiled, simply said “Thank you.” and left.

Frightened as she was, like Levi, she discovered that there doesn’t always have to be a snake in the grass.
in Cambodian. “We also sampled some exotic dishes,” Dennis says, “like stir fried crickets and tarantulas with garlic—not bad with cold beer or the local white lightning (rice or palm wine).” As for academic pursuits of the 11th edition of Dennis’ major textbook, Public Relations Strategies and Tactics, was published by Pearson in March.

- Betty Auchard (widow of Denny Auchard, Education, ’88) continues to write her memoir stories and invites anyone to access her Story Blog at www.bettyauchard.com/blog. Leave your name and email address if you’d like to receive new ones as they are posted.

- Lois Brainerd (Elem. Ed/Instr. Tech., ’83) writes that she is remembering teachers in those WW II quonset huts on campus long ago when Tommie Smith was one of her students. His statue there today reminds her of Smith’s presence then and now.

- Peter Buzanski (History, ’96) and his wife Colleen returned early this summer from a visit to Fallbrook, CA, 30 miles northeast of San Diego. Fallbrook is the avocado capital of the world and while there they observed the consequences of the drought. Most of the avocado trees have been totally destroyed. “We expect avocado prices to be astronomical this coming year,” he says.

- James Asher

Continued from Page 3

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No fading away here

Information available about retired SJSU faculty members

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in paper format in the King Library. These course catalogs go all the way back to San Jose State Normal School and San Jose State Teachers College, from 1872-1935.

The Special Collections reading room on the 5th floor also includes a subset of physical copies of the SJSU College Catalogs, with dates ranging from 1940-present. You can find all this online at http://library.sjsu.edu/sjsu-special-collections/sjsu-special-collections-and-archives.

The SJSU Library’s Special Collections and Archives hold all of the SJSU College Catalogs, but the catalogs from 1969 to the present time are available online through CollegeSource Online. To access CollegeSource Online, you can go to the main library webpage: http://library.sjsu.edu/, then select Databases and scroll down to CollegeSource Online. If you are off campus, you will need to enter your name, university ID and pin number (the standard procedure for accessing databases off campus).

Finally, extensive information on various SJSU faculty members is available through the Online Archive of California: http://www.oac.cdlib.org/institutions/.

There you can select San Jose State University/Special Collections and Archives to view collections such as O. C. Williams’ papers, documenting his poetry and tenure at San Jose State; the Faculty Publications Collection, which includes academic publications and scholarly articles written by faculty members over an eighty year span (1907-1987); and two significant oral history projects interviewing San Jose faculty and administrators.

These library tools can help you with research, or simply satisfy your curiosity and refresh your fading memories. Take advantage of them.