President’s Message

Elba Maldonado-Colon
(Foreign Languages)

Every day is a gift. Each one gives multiple opportunities to meet with friends and colleagues. This year it is my pleasure to lead an active board of retired peers who plan events for us to meet—and by the way, this issue reflects our purpose to engage our members. You will find in these pages information on upcoming activities and on issues related to retirement. Articles and photos throughout the year will remind you of celebrations with colleagues at campus events. For example, this summer, President Mary Papazian hosted a small gathering at her home to honor faculty retiring throughout the academic year 2017-18. Representative members of the ERFA Board were invited. The ceremony reflected President Papazian’s ongoing appreciation of ERFA, and provided us with a more personal opportunity to meet and recruit new members.

Life on campus evolves and closes, and with heavy heart and deep sorrow, we announce that Dr. Amy Strage, AVP for Faculty Development and Director of the Center for Faculty Development, passed away on September 13th, surprising all of us. She was a special friend to ERFA and a staunch supporter of our activities. Her absence will be deeply felt among family, friends, and colleagues.

Meanwhile, our active board will continue working to recruit new members, connect with retirees seeking links to our institution, and offer current information on changes and potential challenges to existing or new benefits. We welcome your suggestions on what other information you would like us to include in the newsletter, as well as potential activities for our get-togethers. We’re also open to recommendations for fundraising to support colleagues engaged in scholarship that benefits students, peers and their own professional and personal growth.

We are enthusiastic and hopeful about growing our membership during this new academic year with your help and support. Talk to your colleagues about us, SJSU ERFA. Refer potential contacts to us. We will take the initiative to reach them.

May Fall begin a new stage of renewal for all!

calendar

Friday, October 26, 2018

Fall Luncheon
Prof. Emeritus Terry Christensen
Dept. of Political Science
Cafe Stritch
Downtown San Jose

See enclosed flyer

Friday, December 7, 2018

Holiday Celebration
3 to 5 p.m.
MLK Library
2nd Floor, Rms. 225-29

Inside . . .

• On a recent trip to China, Dennis Wilcox was enthralled by the cultural changes that spanned millennia from the past to the present. Page 4-5.
• Peter Buzanski returned from a trip to New York City where he was able to revive and relive the past. Page 5.
University and Academic Senate News

Money matters and much more . . .

By Peter Buzanski
(ERFA Senate Representative)

For the past several months, California newspapers have reported that state funding of the CSU System for 2018-19 had been very generous. In fact, the State of California had sufficient funds to put the maximum amount, a full 10% of the total available, into a rainy day fund—a sum amounting to $13.9 billion. While the statistics for the overall funding of the CSU system were gratifying, there were no statistics in any newspaper that dealt specifically with SJSU, the university of greatest interest to us. Fortunately, Charlie Faas, our Vice President for Finance and Administration, came to my rescue, providing the actual sums that I requested, and I deeply appreciate the help he provided.

The general fund appropriation for SJSU in 2018-19 is $171.7 million, but there are additional supplements that bring the total to approximately $338 million. We have come a long way from the days when Bert Burns was the Academic Vice President and he sought to keep the university budget below $100 million.

Executive compensation in the CSU is something of a mixed bag. In the last five-year period (2012/13 to 2017/18), salaries of executives increased by 9.84%, compared to 11.31% for MPPs, (Administrators), 15.21% for staff, and 14.28% for faculty. However, Trustee Romy Sabalius observed that the sum for executive compensation is misleading because it fails to consider houses provided to the presidents and transportation allowances, plus generous retirement and health benefits. When the Board of Trustees announced, at the end of July, the salary increases of about $8,000-$13,000 for executives, many State legislators voiced strong objections. Chancellor Timothy White’s salary was increased by $13,510 for a total of $463,855. To be fair, when White accepted the position of Chancellor he immediately announced that he was taking a 10% salary reduction. Of the CSU presidents, Adela de la Torre at San Diego State saw her salary increase by $12,859 for a total of $441,504. Our own president’s salary increased by $11,408 for a total of $391,683.

Enrollment at SJSU for 2018-19 has grown to over 35,100 students, a number larger than ever before. However, out-of-state admissions went down by 15%. Sixty five new tenure track faculty were hired for this academic year, but despite this substantial increase, the tenure density at the university has not changed over the past five years. Not only have there been

(Continued on Page 3)
non-replaced retirements, but other tenured faculty left SJSU for better-paying positions elsewhere. Other changes have taken place on campus. Two current faculty have been named Fulbright scholars. The College of Applied Sciences and Arts has been renamed the College of Health and Human Services (CHaHS). And there is an Interim Provost, Joan B. Ficke, whose contract specifies that the Interim cannot be considered for a permanent position. Thus, a Search Committee for the Provost is being established with the hope that the position may be filled by the beginning of the Spring semester. If that is not possible, then the search should be completed by the end of this academic year.

Unquestionably, the most significant physical change occurring on campus is a newly proposed Interdisciplinary Science Building (ISB). It will be the first new academic building to be constructed in thirty years. The Board of Trustees has approved its design at their September 2018 meeting and the groundbreaking is planned for May 2019. A funding bond of about $181 million was approved by the Trustees, and President Papazian is counting on private funds for the building to increase the university’s ties to local research institutions and tech companies. The new building, eight stories high, will have laboratories for teaching and research on every floor. Papazian, in a full page story in the Mercury News, insisted on these laboratories in an effort to engage both students and faculty in research and scholarship. The results may have global implications.

Other improvements made this summer include the following. All three fountains, at the Event Center, the Tower, and Chavez Arch, are now working with reclaimed water. All offices on the first floor of Dudley Moorhead Hall are now air conditioned, with some classrooms upstairs also having A/C. Hugh Gillis Hall has a new roof, replacing the leaky old one. The new tennis courts on South Campus were used to successfully host the Mubadala Silicon Valley Classic Tournament in August, which included Serena and Venus Williams, plus a SJSU student. The Spartan Recreation and Aquatic Center is still on schedule to open in Spring 2019. Finally, the two large campus dormitories, Campus Village I and II will soon witness the beginning of construction on Village III.

At the first (September) Academic Senate meeting this semester, a Sense of the Senate Resolution for assisting undocumented students passed unanimously. There was also a lengthy discussion regarding the privacy of electronic information, a proposal that was passed by the Senate last semester. Although it was based on the University of California policy as well as federal, state and CSU policies, it was returned, i.e., vetoed, by President Papazian.

Dr. Amy Strage

A Sad Announcement

Dr. Amy Strage, AVP for Faculty Development and Director of the Center for Faculty Development, passed away unexpectedly on September 13th, at Valley Medical Center. Amy was ERFA’s special friend and partner who helped us with all aspects of our Faculty Research and Creative Activity Awards program. She personally sent out the RFP each year and she and her staff compiled the binders with all the applications for our Review Committee. The letters of awards and those of denial also came from her office. To help faculty who were approaching retirement, Amy hosted a panel discussion each year with ERFA members who told of their own experiences while transitioning from full time work to full retirement. She and Joan Merdinger created 17 videos of ERFA members describing in detail the steps they took in that process to help others contemplating retirement. And Amy was working with the University Library on another project—for retiring faculty leaving a legacy of their work—at the time of her death. Her loss to the University and to all of us in ERFA is immense.
China

An Ancient Culture Embraces

By Dennis L. Wilcox
(Journalism & Mass Comm)

If you want to visit an ancient
culture with a 21st century outlook,
go to China.

That’s exactly what Marianne and I
did during a five-week independent
tour that took us from the futuristic
skyscrapers of Shanghai to the
traditional yurts of Dunhuang,
where the Great Wall ends some
4,000 miles from Beijing. That’s
where the once “Great Wall” has
been reduced to only mud bricks
about 10-feet high and where the
nearby Mogao Caves house 1,000
years of Buddhist art that is truly
spectacular.

China, home to more than 1.3
billion people, with a culture going
back 5,000 years, now boasts the
world’s second largest economy
after the U.S. Some “must see”
sights for all tourists, including us,
is to stand in awe of the Terra Cotta
warriors (221 A.D.) in Xian, to enjoy
the ever-popular Yangtze River
cruise (though the Three Gorges
isn’t much to get excited about)
and a day trip out of Guilin on
the Li River to marvel at towering
limestone formations that have
inspired painters and poets over
the centuries.

Pandas, of course, are the
highlight of any tour and tourists
take hundreds of photos and
videos of these adorable creatures
as they amble around their grassy
enclosures. Of course, you have to pay extra for
the privilege of “working” at the
preserve. Marianne was so eager
to actually cuddle with a Panda
that, with a $300 “donation” to
support Panda preservation, she
had her 15 seconds of fame sitting
on a bench with her arm around a
Giant Panda happily munching on
carrots.

Our five-week sojourn allowed us
to also visit places off the beaten
path where we were often the
only Whites in a sea of Chinese
faces. In Yunnan Province, the
most diverse in China, we stayed
at a traditional Chinese mansion in
the village of Xizhou where the Bai
people lived. There we had dinner
with a family of six (grandparents,
son and daughter-in-law, and their
two children) where we enjoyed
the catch of the day sitting around
their low dining room table in
matching child-sized chairs. Of
course, grandfather’s homemade
carols was offered, which got
better with each new toast to
happiness and prosperity.

On another excursion, we found
ourselves in a throng of Chinese
pilgrims hiking up a mountain to
pay homage to a massive Buddha
(235 feet) carved out of the
mountain wall—the largest Buddha
in the world. A less strenuous
experience was a cable car ride up
to a Tibetan monastery overlooking
snow-capped Jade Dragon
Mountain. And a particularly
moving experience was an outdoor
show, directed by the famous
Zhang Yimou troupe (remember the
opening ceremonies of the Beijing
Olympics) that included at least
500 performers portraying the epic
of local culture, people, and the Silk
Road.

A country’s culture is also found
in its food and drink. Although not
for the faint-hearted, a night tour
of local food stalls on a tuk-tuk (a
three-wheeled motor scooter) is a
real experience as we dodged and
weaved through the heavy traffic
in Xian. The street stalls in various
neighborhoods were great, but a
highlight was a somewhat “illegal”
restaurant in a person’s apartment
where we had to climb through a
first-floor window to be seated, but
the dumplings were excellent.

Then there was the Sichuan “hot
pot” dinner in Chengdu that required
at least five bottles of what the
Chinese call beer, mostly a 2.5%
brew that, for a serious beer drinker,
even makes Coors Light taste OK.
In Dunhuang, we sat in a Yurt that
doubled as a Muslim restaurant,
ions delicious roast lamb with our
fingers. And in Hangzhou at a tea
house we enjoyed the view of West
Lake, one of the most popular sites
in the country for honeymooners,
and an alleged favorite of Marco
Polo.

The ancient culture and sights
of China are impressive, but even
more so today is China’s position
in the 21st Century, with its IT,
infrastucture, and urban planning.
Cell phones are universal among
adults and the addiction rate is
extremely high. Everyone from the
shop clerk to the pedestrian on the
street is constantly looking at little
screens because they sell and buy
everything online—including sodas
from a vending machine—with a
swipe of their phone. Chinese
mobile platforms last year handled
some $15.4 trillion in payments via
cell phones. By contrast, Visa and
MasterCard worldwide processed
only $12.5 trillion in transactions.
The infrastructure there is much to be admired. China has launched a massive program of building new airports, expressways, bridges, and bullet trains across the entire country. The modern Hangzhou train station, for example, is large enough to fit three or four NY Grand Central Stations in it.

As we sailed under another stunning bridge on the Yangtze River cruise, one American said, “It really shows the inefficiencies of a democracy.” We were also impressed that in a country as large as China there is no graffiti, litter, or homeless people with shopping carts, sleeping in doorways.

Of course, there are some downsides to having a somewhat authoritarian government. It’s a surveillance society where “Big Brother” is always in the background, although there is little presence of uniformed police. Newsstands and book stores also seem to be an alien concept.

The Chinese, however, appear quite satisfied with their form of government because incomes have increased 20 times over in the past several decades. Although there are now about 450 million “middle class” citizens, the vast majority of Chinese still don’t own a car—though you wouldn’t know it as you sit in the traffic jams in downtown Xian or Chengdu. As for housing, there’s no suburbia and picket fences. Most urban Chinese, regardless of income, live in forests of look-alike high-rise apartment buildings that ring every city.

As we walked along the Bund in Shanghai (think Time’s Square) on our final night in China, admiring this giant, modern, vibrant city of 24 million, I said to myself, “I have seen the future, and it is China.”
In Memoriam

• B.J. Scott Norwood (Organization & Management, 2000) passed away in June, 2018, at the age of 92. Scott lived a full and eclectic life. Born in San Diego in 1926, he was eager to join the Navy during WW II and saw combat in the Pacific from 1944-46. After the war, he was commissioned in the Naval Reserve and earned degrees in Business Administration from UCLA and Harvard Business School. After a few years as a successful executive in retail business, he preferred to pursue his intellectual interests in public service and academia and joined the faculty at SJSU, where he spent the next 50 years. There he developed his own concepts, techniques and curricula designed to help students succeed in business and “real life.” He counseled and mentored many who became successful leaders and he was chosen as Outstanding Professor at SJSU in 1976. An even greater passion, however, grew out of his interest in Cold War tensions which turned him into a self-taught Soviet scholar. He became sufficiently fluent in the Russian language to explore what he called “Open Source Intelligence,” a wide-range of unclassified literature that allowed him to develop relationships on both sides of the Cold War. He traveled to the Soviet Union dozens of times, while consulting with US federal agencies, in hopes of ameliorating tensions and misunderstandings. After the fall of the Soviet Union, he offered advice to its newly independent states on free market economics and US legal principles to help deal with corruption and organized crime. All his efforts were pro bono, refusing reimbursement in order to maintain a position of independence, objectivity and trust. Meanwhile, he remained a dedicated supporter of the US military, serving in executive positions of the US Air Force Association, the Association of the US Army, and the Navy League of the US. He also was the founding President of what became the Propeller Club of Northern California, served as a Commissioner of Santa Clara County and authored a feasibility analysis in 1965 for the construction of Good Samaritan Hospital, which is where he passed away in June. He was eventually recognized for his lifetime of public service by the Knights Hospitaller and Templar, who deemed him “Sir Byron Johns Scott Norwood.” He leaves behind his wife Barbara, two children and two grandchildren.

• John (“Jack”) Bunzel (President, SJSU, 1970-78) passed away on July 19, 2018, at his home in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, at the age of 94. Bunzel was born in NY City, where he attended Kent School from 1937-42. He enlisted in the US Army in 1942, and after the War earned a BA in Political Science at Princeton Univ., followed by an MA in Sociology from Columbia Univ. and a PhD in Political Science from UC Berkeley. He had a distinguished career that began with teaching at SF State, Michigan State and Stanford in the 50s and 60s, before becoming a visiting scholar at Stanford’s Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences. After accepting the presidency at SJSU (1970-78), he returned to Stanford as a Senior Research Fellow at the Hoover Institution and then was appointed to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in 1983. He was the author or editor of eight academic books, in addition to writing on political and social matters for the NY Times, Wall Street Journal, the LA Times, The Public Interest and the SF Chronicle. From 1976-82 he wrote a weekly column for the SJ Mercury News. In 1993, Bunzel developed a comedy routine lampooning politics, male-female relationships, aging and health problems. With his stand-up routine, “From Here to Hilarity,” he enjoyed entertaining Stanford alumni and others, performing his final “gig” in Charleston, SC at the age of 92. Bunzel is survived by his daughter, son, step-daughter, grandson and step-granddaughter.

• Ann Williams (wife of Gareth Williams, Physics, ’02), a longtime participant in ERFA events, passed away peacefully on August 28, 2018, after a long struggle with Sjogren’s Syndrome and related kidney disease. Ann was born in Merthyr Tydfill, Wales, and trained as a nurse near Cardiff before marrying Gareth in 1959. Three years later they came to Berkeley, CA, where Gareth pursued a postdoctoral fellowship. They moved to Los Gatos in 1967 when Gareth began teaching at SJSU. Ann worked at various jobs while raising her two children, then decided to complete her education, graduating as a President’s Scholar with a B.A. in Sociology from SJSU in 1981. She then worked in the medical field, as a Library assistant at Good Samaritan Hospital and office manager for a counseling service. Ann loved music, camping (especially in Yosemite), frequent travel in the US, the UK and Europe, books, theatre, art and Friday night dominoes. She had a wide circle of friends from Wales, San Jose State, the Los Gatos United Methodist Church and Good Samaritan Hospital. She was known and loved for her energy, zest for life, kindness, curiosity and sense of humor. She leaves behind Gareth, her children Jonathan and Jayne, her grandchildren...
Ada Loewer (Assoc. Member) is now living with her daughter, Cindy Loewer-Torrez, who moved back home to take care of her mother a year ago. Cindy would like people to know that while they share the same phone number and address listed in the Directory, Cindy can also be reached by her cell phone (408) 500-9365, or email, cloewertorrez@aol.com, if anyone would like to contact her Mom.

Anne Fountain (Foreign Languages, ’17) traveled to Cuba last January at the invitation of the Havana City Historian and is scheduled to return this month (September). In March, 2018, Anne and a colleague published a critical edition in Spanish of Jose’ Marti’s 1888 translation of the Helen Hunt Jackson novel, Ramona. She also has a chapter, “Teaching the Latin American Emerson,” in the forthcoming Modern Language Assoc. volume, “Approaches to Teaching the Works of Ralph Waldo Emerson.” Finally, she is Executive Producer for a mini-documentary (now on YouTube) of Cuban author Nancy Alonso, whose works Anne translated into English.

Kathy Carmona (Special Ed [SERS], ’96) has retired in June this year from Our Lady of Guadalupe Parochial School, after serving for 18 years as their speech therapist and resource teacher.

Betty Auchard (Assoc. Member) is working assiduously with her editor on the fourth and final book of her memoirs so it can be released this year. She is still available as a lively speaker/story teller “for any gathering that wants to be entertained.” You can also follow her on Facebook at Betty Auchard, Author, for some down-to-earth stories. Check her out.

Daniel Glines (Human Performance, ’92) and his wife, Barbara, divide their year between living in San Jose (October-June) and Ennis, Montana (June-October). In Montana he enjoys “fly fishing, beautiful scenery and a relaxed life among sane drivers.”

Marjorie Fitting Gifford (Mathematics, ’82), who lives in Hawaii, writes with some frustration, “As David McNeil said in the last Newsletter, when we leave SJSU we are gone down the memory hole.” She complains that even when we were at SJSU, “How many of the multitudinous faculty did we actually know? And when we left, others immediately took over our functions, so that with every computer upgrade, older data seemed to be missing.” Of course, she knows that “all is not lost if we can keep up with the new tools: Google, Facebook, the ERFA web page and our Biographies (somewhat out of date).” But even so, she says, “I still can’t find an answer for how to resume my account at the SJSU Library or on SJSU.edu.” She ends, plaintively: “Help, anyone?”

Susan Meyers (Special Ed, ’08) took a “beautiful, exciting rafting trip” this year, down the Colorado River into the Grand Canyon for six days. “One hundred eighty eight miles and plenty of wild rapids,” she says.

Maria Ochoa (Sociology, ’17) is currently at work on a series of photographs that document entrepreneurs who are women of color.

Jill Cody (Recreation & Tourism, ’06) and husband, Jerry Grimes, recently moved to Carmel and are “loving it,” especially the restaurants and outdoor activities.

Lorraine Pedretti (Occupational Therapy, ’94) was honored as one of the 100 most influential people in occupational therapy at the 100th Anniversary of the American Occupational Therapy Association, spanning the profession’s first century.

Sandra Olliges (Kinesiology, ’17) is pleased to have received her status as Lecturer Emerita this past April.

I close my eyes and see falling one by one about my chair desires I no longer desire, thoughts I no longer have to think and mind, grateful for the extra space, leans back and puts its feet up on the newly liberated desk, smiles.

--Nils Peterson (English/Humanities)
In Memoriam
(Continued from Page 6)

SJSU Heritage Society

The Heritage Society of SJSU is a recognition association for donors who have established a future gift to the University in their will or other estate plan. If you, as an ERFA member, are a donor, or might be interested in becoming one, the Society’s next annual luncheon will take place on Thursday, November 1, 2018, from 12:00-2:00pm, at the Club Regent Room in the Fairmont Hotel, 170 Market St., San Jose. If you have questions, or would like further information, contact Anie Clark, (408) 924-1155 or anie.clark@sjsu.edu.

Patricia Breivik

(Dean, MLK Library, ’05) passed away on September 15, 2018, at the age of 79 after a battle with Parkinson’s disease. She was born in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1939, and earned a B.A. from Brooklyn College, an M.L.S. from Pratt Institute and a D.L.S. from Columbia University. During her 38 years in higher education, Dr. Breivik held important positions as Dean, AVP or Director at several university libraries, including Wayne State (Michigan), Towson State (Maryland), the Auraria Library at the Univ. of Colorado and Sangamon State (Illinois), before coming to SJSU. She served on several national boards related to information literacy, higher education and library research, sometimes as Chair or President. She won awards too numerous to mention, wrote two books on information literacy and over 40 periodical articles and book chapters. Patricia also made speaking engagements all over the world. After her retirement in 2005, she moved to Columbia, SC, to live near her family and to serve as Vice President of her son’s communications company. She is survived by her son, daughter-in-law, two grandsons, two sisters and several cousins. Patricia’s husband, Dr. John Cummer, preceded her in death.