Beginning a new chapter at SJSU

By Peter Buzanski
(ERFA Representative to the Academic Senate)

Dr. Mary Papazian made clear that at this stage in her life, age 57, her presidency at SJSU will be the last in her career. Papazian is a native of Southern California, who earned her A.B., M.A, and Ph.D. in English literature from UCLA. She is the author of two books, John Dunne and the Protestant Reformation: New Perspectives, and The Sacred and Profane in English Renaissance Literature. She is currently the President of Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven where she has made many transformational changes that have been widely praised, in addition to having held an impressive number of executive positions at various universities.

She is married to Dr. Dennis Papazian, Professor Emeritus of History and the Founding Director of the Armenian Research Center at the University of Michigan in Dearborn. He retired from there in 2006 after a 40 year career. Both Mary and Dennis Papazian received Honorary Doctorates from the Armenian State Pedagogical University in Yerevan, Armenia. An interesting video exists of Dr. Dennis Papazian, with Dr. Mary in the background, addressing the Armenian Genocide Observance in Times Square, N.Y., in 2012. The Papazians have two daughters.

On July 1, 2016, SJSU will see its third President in one year: Dr. Mary A. Papazian. Her appointment was confirmed after one of the shortest presidential searches on record. The campus Advisory Committee met at the start of the fall semester, gave its recommendations to the Chancellor's office by mid-January and the trustees announced their decision by the end of that month. Never before in SJSU history was a presidential vacancy conducted with the rapidity of the current search. I attribute that unacademic speed to Chancellor Timothy White, who is the only chancellor since Buell Gallagher, the very first one who lasted only six months, for whom I have great respect.

The San Jose Mercury-News lamented the decision by Interim President Susan Martin to withdraw her name from the applicant list, but Martin's explanation to the campus community was understandable. She said she realized that what the university required, after the many unsolved problems that have accumulated over the past several years, was a president willing to remain here for a minimum of five years. Martin said that with the coming arrival of her fifth and sixth grandchildren (twins), she was unwilling to remain that long.

March 25, 2016

Spring Excursion
Computer History Museum
See enclosed flyer

Friday, May 6, 2016

Spring Luncheon
The Villages
University and Academic Senate Review

Academic senate report: a mixed bag

By Peter Buzanski
(ERFA Representative to the Academic Senate)

At the Academic Senate’s first meeting of the Spring semester, we learned some important facts, some positive, some less so. Despite our dismay when the recent presidential search took place without any finalists coming on campus to face an open forum, we learned that the Chancellor went on record to assure our Presidential Advisory Committee that he would never approve a candidate not acceptable to the Committee. No previous Chancellor has ever taken such a stand.

We also learned that the architects for a new Science building have been selected and that construction will be completed by 2022. Although the CSU budget is $140 million richer for the ensuing year, that sum is only a little more than half of what the CSU requested, given the aging infrastructure of many campuses, especially our own. That budget, according to Governor Brown’s plan, also includes a mere 1% increase for enrollment growth in the coming year, while the CSU planned for 3% growth to meet the large number of applicants. Our Campus received 46,000 new applications for Fall, 2016.

Finally, once upon a time, there had been plans to demolish Dudley Moorhead Hall. Unfortunately, those ambitions will not have the usual fairy tale ending. Instead, we learned that DMH will have a new heating and air conditioning system installed—a welcome improvement. The building will be closed at the end of the Spring semester, and will reopen for Spring, 2017. All department and faculty offices will be relocated in the interim.

SJSU ERFA Officers, 2015-16

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Visit the SJSU ERFA Website at www.sjsu.edu/emeritusfaculty

Views and opinions expressed in this SJSU ERFA Newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the editor or of San Jose State University.

Quirky Tidbits

Did you singlehandedly win a volleyball game when you were in the eighth grade? Did you play the mellophone in your high school band? Do you jump into the Bay for a swim on New Year’s Day?

Share your interesting but little-known facts! Please email your tidbits to Lonna Smith at this address: lonna@pacbell.net, then watch for them in a future ERFA Newsletter.

No phone calls, please.
In Memoriam

• Gail Jackson Fullerton (SJSU President, ’91) died of natural causes on January 1, 2016 in Oregon, at the age of 88. She was born Gladys Mae Jackson in Lincoln, NB, and earned her BA and MA from the University of Nebraska (1949-50) in Sociology. After taking her Ph.D from the University of Oregon (1954), she taught at Duke Univ. and Florida State before coming to SJSU in 1963, where she joined her first husband, Snell Putney, in the Dep’t. of Sociology. She co-authored with Putney her first book, Normal Neurosis: The Adjusted American, (1964), followed by two editions of her second book, Survival in Marriage (1972, ’77). After her marriage failed, she married her present husband, Stanley Fullerton. Gail’s administrative accomplishments as the first female president in SJSU history were prodigious. She made significant changes on campus during her 13-year tenure (1978-91) despite the fiscal restraints imposed by Proposition 13. She obtained funding for the new Robert Clark Library in a year when no other CSU buildings were funded. She turned the enrollment decline of the late 1970s around in the 80s, increasing enrollments by 20% from 1980-90. Working with Dean Jay Pinson, she helped construct a new Engineering complex by combining state funds with private monies from local tech firms, making SJSU one of the top providers of engineers to help fuel the Silicon Valley tech revolution. She found funding to build the new SJSU Recreation and Event Center on campus and expanded Spartan Stadium to qualify for NCAA Division 1-A status. Finally, she built a consensus with the SJ City Council to undertake the process of closing San Carlos St. through the campus.

Gail was seen as a no-nonsense leader who took full responsibility for her decisions. Some saw her as aloof, others as shy and retiring. She rejected that view: “No one who’s shy and retiring lasts long in the presidency,” she said. Those who worked closely with her spoke of her keen wit and sense of humor. After retirement, she moved north, first to Eureka, CA, then to Coos Bay, OR, where she took up genealogy, tracing her Jackson relatives back to 1512. She leaves behind her husband, Stan, two children, two grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

• Helen Ross Mico (Health Science, ’92) passed away on January 2, 2016, at the age of 95, with her family beside her. Helen was born in Castle Gate, Utah, and took her BS degree from the Univ. of Utah in 1946. She later received her Masters in Public Health (’53) and her Ed.D (’71) from UC Berkeley, and then a Certificate in Gerontology from SJSU (’92). Meanwhile, she taught at UC Berkeley from 1960-70 and SJSU from 1970-92. Helen’s career was quite extraordinary by any standard. She largely created, with her colleague, Sam Radelfinger, the Department of Art & Art History (1980) and a faculty lecturer from the University Library (Health Education and Behavioral Science, (both translated into Chinese). She did study tours and observations all over the world, including all five continents, and served as a delegate to the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women. She acquired more awards than can be listed here from national, state and county Public Health organizations and served as President and on the Board of Directors of many of them. She received the Exceptional Merit Service Award from the President of SJSU and the CSU Chancellor, and she created her own Helen Ross Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Leadership in the Dep’t. of Health Science. Helen leaves behind her loving husband, Paul, her two daughters, a son-in-law and two granddaughters.

ERFA Faculty Awards, 2014-2015

By Joan Merdinger (Past President)
A team of three faculty members from the University Library and a faculty lecturer from the Department of Art & Art History were the first recipients of our newly created ERFA Faculty Research and Creative Activity Awards last spring, 2015. Our Board sent out a request for proposals to the campus in the fall of 2014 and we were surprised to receive forty-four high quality applications. After a thorough review, two awards of $2500 were granted through our newly-created Tower Foundation account. To date, we have received $4050 in tax deductible donations from ERFA members for this very worthy cause. Please help us keep the momentum going for this initiative by sending a check made out to “Tower Foundation,” and on the Memo line include “ERFA Faculty Award.” Send your check to our Treasurer, Abdel El-Shaieb, 5023 Wilma Way, San Jose, CA 95124.
Memories of World War II

By Bob Wilson (Sociology)

It was September, 1939, and I was about to enter my senior year in high school. From our radio came the announcement that Hitler had invaded Poland. I knew right then that I would be going to war. Fast forward to December 7th, 1941, and I am home from college, recovering from pneumonia. As I came down the stairs, again from the radio I heard the words, “The Japanese have bombed Pearl Harbor.” I called out to my mother, “This is it.” In November of 1942, I joined the Navy. Several months later, I arrived at Midshipman school, which was held at Notre Dame University. A sharp memory from my arrival there was our being lined up on the bulkhead (wall) and having the officer in charge say: “Look to your right, and then to your left; one of those people will not be there by the end of this course.” I’m not sure it worked out that way, but his statement was a real motivator.

After 67 days of intense training we were commissioned as Ensigns in the Navy. From Midshipman school, I was assigned to the Charleston Navy Yard. I lived a half-block from the Battery, which still has the cannons that fired on Fort Sumter. After more training in a Navy program at Harvard and final training at Jacksonville, I received orders sending me to the Pacific. After a short stop in Honolulu and a long flight to the Admiralty Island of Manus (located off of New Guinea), I flew north to the Leyte Gulf area where I was appointed the officer in charge of the vessel YF 610. It was a supply support vessel for air groups during initial operations. The men in charge before me had trained a good and capable crew and we had great rapport, which was fortunate for a young officer.

I can’t recount all that happened, but a few things, big and small, are still embedded in my memory. Such as the night the tail end of a typhoon brought huge waves crashing over us and I had to order everyone off the deck; we couldn’t even retrieve a small landing craft which had broken loose. Or having just one movie aboard ship because we sailed without having had time to return it. The movie was shown so often that the crew could repeat the lines by heart. We also suffered the loss of our best cook who returned to the States and was never adequately replaced. A serious tragedy! Other routine events filled my days, such as censoring mail, taking care of small accidents and making short trips to various islands for material. On one of these trips, I was in a plane that blew a tire on landing and we were spun into a ditch. Fortunately no one was seriously hurt; I had only a small cut.

Finally, two significant events from late in the war, both associated, remain firmly in my memory. I had gone ashore for some task and was driving down the quartering strip of an air base (the quartering strip was where bombers warmed up their engines before takeoff). Some fellow in a jeep drove up alongside mine and asked, “Have you heard about that big bomb?” He was, of course, referring to the “A Bomb” that had just been detonated over Japan. I hadn’t, but that news would prove significant for another reason important to those of us on board ship. We were in the process of loading up for the invasion of Japan and had 1000 auxiliary fuel tanks on board for planes. Within a matter of days the war came to an end but the YF 610 had one more job to perform: we were ordered to jettison all of the fuel tanks, which proved to be a most arduous task. When it was completed, we were in effect decommissioned and the crew and I reassigned.

I have one last comment to make concerning those wartime experiences. Today the veterans of World War II have been called “The Greatest Generation” of Americans. This accolade is well deserved and I totally agree with it. I only want to add one thing: the reason I endorse this recognition is because that “Greatest Generation” didn’t know, or even think, they were “The Greatest Generation.”
Reaching a Milestone

Alvin Beckett is 100 years old

By Dennis L. Wilcox
(Journalism/Mass Comm.)

Alvin Beckett, professor emeritus of accounting and a long-term member of SJSU-ERFA, celebrated his 100th birthday on Feb. 10 at the University Retirement Center (URC) in Davis.

Beckett’s teaching career spanned more than 30 years at SJSU before he retired in 1986. Like so many others, he was interviewed by President Wahlquist on one of his annual trips around the country to interview and hire people on the spot. Beckett met Wahlquist in his hotel room at the Waldorf Astoria in NYC and was offered an appointment in Business Education to train teachers of business for high schools and junior colleges.

Mike Bronner ’58, now a professor of business education at NYU, says Beckett was his “mentor, advisor, professor, and friend.” As Beckett’s student assistant, he recalls, “at one point and none-too-gently, he pointed out that on the cover I created for his 100 Bookkeeping Teaching Tips booklet, I had misspelled ‘bookkeeping’ after I had run multiple copies, collated, and stapled them, ready for distribution. Oops!”

Laurel Beckett, his daughter, currently a professor in the School of Medicine at UC Davis, also recalls that when one of his top students decided to drop out of college because she was married and expecting a baby, Beckett urged her to stay in school and helped her work out finances and childcare. She went on to graduate, earn a master’s degree, and have a successful career.

Laurel added, “Her baby boy grew up to be a doctor and is now a colleague of mine here at UC Davis.”

Faculty from the College of Business still remember Beckett’s commitment to the college after he retired. Emeritus Professor Nancie Fimbel says he returned to campus every Friday and brought flowers from his garden to the department secretaries.

“After I became Associate Dean in 1999, he brought me flowers each week, too,” she said.

Beckett was also an avid stamp collector and one of his reasons for visiting was to collect any envelopes with foreign stamps that the college had received.

Cards and letters congratulating Beckett on his 100th birthday can be sent to him at 1515 Shasta Drive, Apartment 2105, Davis, CA 95616.

When the Middle of Nowhere becomes Somewhere

By Lonna Smith
(Secondary Ed/LLD)

I’m in the back seat of the family car. Daddy’s driving, of course, and my mom leans her head against the window to her right. My brother sits beside me, half asleep, bent over with his head touching his knees. We’re in the Middle of Nowhere on the endless journey from Los Angeles back to Pittsburgh after a glorious summer. Now all that awaits us is prairie and more prairie.

The only break in the monotony is the sound coming from the radio we rely on to keep our sanity and to keep my Dad awake. In this vast flatland, the signal is strong and the reception good. Daddy’s listening to the news, or at least I think it’s the news. It’s all just a bunch of talk to me.

The announcer says, “And now we’ll tune in to the March on Washington and listen to the Reverend Martin Luther King.” Of course I know who he is. I should probably listen to what he says, but the back seat is warm and I’m sleepy, so I just half listen. After what seems a long time, I hear Dr. King’s voice swell with emotion.

“I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up, live out the true meaning of its creed: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.’”

Mom sits up straight, a cue for me to tune in.

“I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.”

“Are you listening to this, Beverlee?” my father asks. Mom just nods her head.

“I have a dream that one day

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Chat Room . . .

Special news from and about our members. Edited by Gene Bernardini

This edition contains news about travels and activities taken from the membership renewal forms. Members are invited to send additional news about themselves to Gene Bernardini at geebernard@comcast.net or by snail mail at 775 Seawood Way, San Jose, CA 95120

• Brent Heisinger (Music, ’96) will have the premiere of his latest original composition, ECTA III, on March 12-13, 2016, at the Petite Trianon in San Jose. It will be performed by the San Jose Chamber Orchestra (Barbara Day O’Conner directing), and include a world-class jazz drummer, royal hartigan (sic), along with his NY bassist. Hartigan is a master of African rhythms who inspired Brent to create motifs adapted from those rhythms and passed through the orchestra—with improvisation a central ingredient. The result: a unique work with little precedent.

• Hans Guth (English ’92) has just published his memoir, called Rediscovering America (now available from Amazon). It’s an immigrant-makes-good-story. Hans was a young recruit in the German army, wounded and captured in the last months of WW II. After working for the Americans as “surrendered enemy personnel,” he came to the US as a Fulbright student and went on to earn a PhD at U of Michigan. He taught English language and literature at SJSU, published textbooks that reached three million students and gave lectures and workshops on American education all over the country. He was the featured speaker at our ERFA Spring Luncheon a few years ago where he teased us with his early experiences of becoming an American citizen.

• Carol Pechler (Elementary Ed, ’07) has also published a novel based upon her own experiences as a latecomer to long-distance running. Its title is Run, Rimal! and it’s now available on Amazon. Carol began running at age 59: “I ran away from the abyss of 60,” she writes, “after noticing my standing leg shaking in the morning when I stood to put the other leg in my pants.” She wondered if an old body accustomed to sitting at a desk could still build muscles. Her novel explores the life-changing experiences she discovered by taking up a challenge posed by her granddaughter and provides insight and inspiration for other seniors who could benefit.

• Gordon Greb (Journalism/Mass Comm., ’90) is now in his 95th year and still mentally alert. Recently interviewed for a column called Thinking Aloud, Gordon was asked about his favorite books and authors. His all time favorite: “Shakespeare’s ghost writer, the Earl of Oxford, a playwright who had to keep it secret from Elizabeth the First.” His favorites today: “the non-fiction writers, David McCulloch, Doris Kearns Goodwin and Eric Larson.” What book did he ever put down without finishing? “Montaigne’s Essays, but what I read inspired me to go to the Dordogne to visit the tower home where he wrote, and where we then picnicked outside with cheese, bread and red wine.”

• Harry Powers (Art & Design, ’91) recently received the “Spirit of Ireland Award” from San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo and Christy Burke, Lord Mayor of Dublin, Ireland. In addition, Harry’s six-foot-tall concrete sculpture was recently donated by Bank of the West to the Triton Museum of Art in Santa Clara.

• Wanna Pitts (Biological Science, ’92) lost her husband Jerry on August 8, 2015. Wanna is currently living in Albany, OR.

• Lonna Smith (Secondary Ed & LLD, ’04) and husband Michael continue their travels, this time to the Deep South. “We learned about the beginnings of Rock and Roll in Memphis, visited the National Military Park in Vicksburg and toured antebellum mansions in Natchez.”

• Ada Loewer (widow of Bob Loewer, Marketing, ’89), traveled to Indiana in December to spend the holidays with her son, daughter-in-law and only grandchild, Amelia Loewer.

• Vida Kenk (Biology, ’10) and her husband Bill traveled to Botswana and Zambia on a photographic wildlife safari in August, then to Australia in October and November.

• James Willis (Economics, ’98) and his wife Marianna still love to travel: “Our last trip included Thailand, Myanmar, India, Jordan, Israel, Greece and Turkey.”

• Shirley Hopkinson (Library/Information Science, ’92) is simply “living quietly, enjoying my cats and books and volunteering for activities at my church.”

• Elsie Leach (English, 94) has also been traveling “with a friend to Etna in Siskyou County and to beautiful Scotts Valley (‘the other Scotts Valley’).”

• Robert Moore (Dean, Appl. Science/Div. of Tech, ’83) regrets to inform us that his beloved wife, Thea, passed away on July 9, 2015. They were married for 59 years.

• Gil Guerin (Special Ed, ’92) is a docent at Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos on Fridays, and he “loves it.” He is also active in Operations of Foster City Village, a nonprofit helping to support seniors who wish to grow older in their homes and with their families.
ERFA
Holiday Celebration

Photos by Dennis Wilcox

Jill Cody and Jerry Grimes

Nancie Fimbel, Tim Hegstrom and Dennis Wilcox

Dick Ellefsen and Hugh Mumby

Lonna Smith and Irma Guzman-Wagner

Jo Bell Whitlatch and Ruth Kifer

Adnan and Pat Daoud
Nowhere becomes Somewhere

(Continued from Page 5)

even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.”

My dad addresses us all: “Pay attention to this. It’s going to go down as one of the great speeches of our civilization,” he predicts. My mother pulls out a hankie. She wipes her eyes before handing it to my dad.

“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today.”

“Please God. Please God,” both parents pray. I know my dad’s prediction is correct and listen intently to the great words. By “Free at last, free at last,” I’m crying, too.

Daddy turns the radio off as we travel along that lonely road through the heartland in silence.

2016-17 Board Elections

At our Spring Luncheon on May 6, 2016, which doubles as our annual business meeting, a slate of candidates for the Board will be recommended to all members in attendance. The elective offices to be filled this year are Vice President (to serve as President in the 2017-18 year), Treasurer (for a two year term), one Member at Large (also a two-year term) and Academic Senate Representative. Our Nominating Committee will also recommend appointments to the following positions: Newsletter Editor, Membership Chair, Webmaster, Consolations, Activities Committee, Archivist and CSU-ERFA Representatives.

If you would like to be a candidate for any of these positions, please email Gene Bernardini (geebernard@comcast.net) for details. The deadline is April 22, 2016.