

San José State University Emeritus Faculty Association Biography

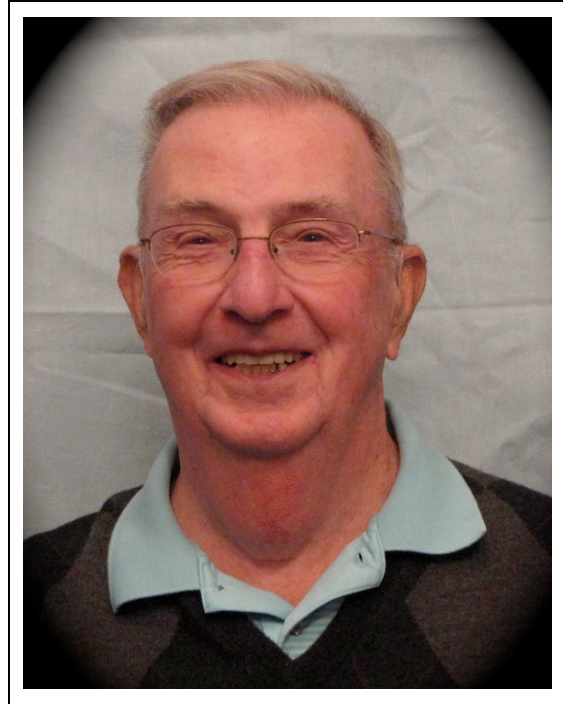
Name: J Benton White

Department: Religious Studies Program

Academic Rank: Professor

Year Retired: 1992

City of Residence: San José CA



Facebook Page or Website URL:

Birthplace: Birmingham AL

Birth Year:

Marital Status: married **Spouse or Partner's Name:** Mary Lou (Bloomberg)

Children's Names: Thomas Raymond White and Matthew Louis White

No. of Grandchildren: 3 **No. of Great Grandchildren:**

Colleges or Universities Attended:	Year	Degree
University of Alabama	1953	BS, Gen Business
Candler School of Theology, Emory University	1956	BD, Theology
Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, U of Texas	1958	Certificate: Marriage and Family Counseling
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary	1969	MTh, Theology

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Teaching Experience:	From	To
Cotner School of Religion, U of Nebraska	1959	1961
San José State University	1970	1992
Santa Clara University, adjunct professor	1993	2004

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

Ordained minister in the United Methodist Church
US Air Force Chaplain (SAC), 1956-59
Campus Minister, Wesley Foundation, U of Nebraska, 1959-61
Director of Wesley Foundation, SJSU, 1961-69
Ombudsman, SJSU, 1967-69
Director of UCCM, SJSU, 1968-69
Assistant to the President, SJSU, 1969-70
Coordinator Religious Studies Program, SJSU, 1970-92
Academic Advisor to Athletics, SJSU, 1980-81

Selected Publications:

Biblical Interpretation, Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993
Form Adam to Armageddon: A Survey of the Bible (5th edition). J Benton White and Walter T. Wilson. 2005
In Progress, *Unto Us is Born* (a novel).

Personal Commentary (please limit comments to one page):

I was born in Birmingham, Alabama in 1931. I have always felt close to my roots. I was active in church all of my life and felt drawn to the ministry at an early age. I served as a SAC Chaplain after seminary. It was while at Lincoln AFB I met and married Mary Lou. We remained in Nebraska after the service while I served as campus minister at the U. of Nebraska. I helped plan and build its Wesley Foundation facility.

We came to San Jose in 1961 when I was offered the job as Dir. of the Wesley Foundation (Methodist Campus Ministry) at SJS College. I was active in the Civil Rights movement here, and that is probably what brought me to the attention of Robert D. Clark, then Pres. of SJS, who asked me to be the first university Ombudsman in the fall 1967. Next I became Asst. to the President for Dr. Hobert Burns, interim Pres. of SJS in 1969. In that job I wrote and carried through

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committee the proposal for an academic program in Religious Studies at SJSU. In 1970, I became Coord. of the Religious Studies Program and a Prof. of Religious Studies at SJSU. Religious Studies now has a major, minor, etc.

While at SJSU, I was active in committees at all levels of the university. I twice served as Chair of the University's Athletics Board, chaired several of the coach search committees, was twice Chair of the RTP Committee of the College of Humanities and the Arts, was on many other School, College, and University committees, often as Chair. I was on the Board of the SJS Univ. Club for six years, and its Pres. for two. I oversaw the physical renovation of the Club as Pres. I served as the Chair of the College of Humanities and the Arts Dean Search Comm. that chose Jack Crane as Dean. I received (at least) two MPPAs. I was Pres. of the Western region of the American Academy of Religion in 1980-81. I was Pres. of SJSU Phi Kappa Phi, and first National Chaplain of P1 Kappa Phi social fraternity.

I have been active in affairs beyond the Univ., particularly in the affairs of Almaden Hills United Methodist Church. I served on the Boards of the South Valley YMCA and the Seven Step Foundation. I coached Little League baseball in the Lincoln Glen League for three years and served on its Board for five more years. I founded the SJSU Golf Club and have served in all of its offices.

I have taught at Santa Clara Univ. each year since retiring, am doing a fourth edition of my text, and am writing a novel. I have been active in EFA as well, being Membership Chair, Newsletter Editor, and now Vice President. I have been active in the Villages, where I live in San Jose. Have served as chair of their Men's Golf Club, am a founding board member, chaired Academy for Senior Academy for Education (SAFE, served as chair of our District Advisory Committee (Valle Vista Village), and served on the Village Golf Committee.

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