

SJSU ERFA Newsletter
Fall 2021 Volume 35 Number 1
A Newsletter of the SJSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

President's Message

By Jackie Snell

Covid lingers on. Life resumes slowly. Some of my friends decide that the Delta variant poses such a risk that they revive a personal lockdown and don't meet, even outside, for a while longer. On the lighter side I've been to a few museums and, finally, a live play. Book club is meeting again, but outdoors.

Likewise, for ERFA. The Board continues to debate when we can meet in person again. We've just had our first IRL (In Real Life) event since the beginning of the pandemic. It was very exciting to see some of you in person at History San Jose after such a long time! We were careful: with masks and vaccine verification in tow, we rotated among three buildings in small groups. Dividing into groups let us social distance as well. Continuing our caution, the Board has decided to have the holiday party via Zoom again this year. The Choraliers were a great success last year. I'm sure we will have a stellar program again this year, and fun will be had by all. Thanks to the programming committee for designing fun things to do online.

Over the summer, we had an informative Webinar about PERS Long Term Care. The situation is confusing because two things are happening simultaneously. One is a class action lawsuit concerning some members of the program, and the second is a big decision faced by all PERS LTC members: should we each individually accept a large increase in premiums to keep our benefits the same or should we reduce our benefits to keep the same premium. If you still have questions about these, see: <https://www.calpers.ca.gov/page/active-members/health-benefits/long-term-care>. We also welcomed new members of the Board:

- Chris Jochim agreed to become our representative to the SJSU Senate, replacing Susan McClory who has taken over management of the membership database.
- Bethany Shifflett has taken over management of the ERFA Website, which will change its look this winter because of changes to the SJSU Website.
- Tim Hegstrom, as past president, started a new initiative that you will see in this newsletter as "Did You Know?"
- A new position was created: Mary Caligari is accepting donations to the Research and Creativity Awards and coordinating with the Tower Foundation.

I'm looking forward to this year. I will never complain about Zoom. I am grateful for Zoom (and telephones). Just think what this last year and a half would have been like if we didn't have technology to keep us in touch.

History San Jose offers warm welcome

By Nancie Fimbel

Meeting in person for the first time since early 2020, about two dozen ERFA members and their guests visited History San Jose on October 7. Bill Schroh, the President and CEO of History Park, gave us a warm welcome and encouraging news about how many school groups are now again visiting the grounds. In case you weren't able to join us, you might be interested in looking into the many fall and winter festivities that are being planned. (See more at historysanjose.org.)

We had docent tours of three buildings, the Chinese "Temple of Five Gods," the Santa Ana One-Room Schoolhouse, and the Markham House. Our own Chris Jochim was the docent in the temple, a replica of the building that was in Chinatown, San Jose, from 1888 until 1949. It served as both a religious and community center. The lower level is now an attractive and interesting Chinese American Historical Museum.

ERFA member Elba Maldonado-Colon taught us about the schoolhouse, which was moved to the Park in 1998 and renovated by the Connie L. Lurie College of Education at SJSU. It was used to teach grades 1 through 8 from 1872 until 1967 in the Santa Ana Valley in San Benito County. Its last classes were for kindergarteners in 1972-74. Now it provides historical perspective for visiting school children.

The Markham House celebrates the poet Edwin Markham (1852-1940). Markham was a student at the San Jose Normal School who became famous for his poem "The Man with the Hoe" about the miserable plight of laborers. Markham lived in the house, built in the 1860s, for three years with his mother. It is used now as the location of Poetry Center San Jose.

After all of us had circulated to each of these buildings, we enjoyed a sandwich, salad and cookie at picnic tables on the plaza. Once again our Program Committee saw to it that we had an educational outing with plenty of time to socialize, too! Everyone agreed it was exhilarating to be together in person after so long apart.

An Unheroic Simile

By Nils Peterson (English)

As in an hour glass not long before it wants turning, the grains of sand seem to move faster, faster, so quicken the days of August. Summer was always a liar with its June promises of forever.

You think back to childhood
when the days of summer seemed endless, and time long enough. Then the school bell rang,
and you woke with a jolt
into the mortality of arithmetic.

The Establishment of ERFA at SJSU

By Nancie Fimbel

On September 17, 1985, seven emeritus faculty members met in the Alumni Room at San Jose State University to decide whether to try to form an Emeritus Faculty Association. The seven were Dwight Bentel (Journalism), Jim Brown (Education), Norm Gunderson (General Engineering/Cybernetic Systems), Walt McPherson (Human Performance), Ed Minium (Psychology), Lowell Walter (Counseling), and Mel Wright (Business).^{*} They met because an organization called The California State University Emeriti Faculty Association was forming and had requested the support of local emeritus groups. Eight CSU campuses—Dominguez Hills, Fresno, Los Angeles, Northridge, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, and Stanislaus—had already established organizations with a total membership of about 1,100 out of the 2,000 or so emeritus faculty in the Cal State System at the time.

Based on a survey of SJSU emeritus faculty that Lowell Walter and others conducted, the men decided to forge ahead with the establishment of a local organization. They divided into committees and gave themselves a month to formulate purposes and possible activities, write a draft Constitution and By-Laws, and determine the level of support the University was willing to provide. They needed a mailing list of emeritus faculty, help with mailings and perhaps a newsletter, and they wanted to know how enthusiastic President Fullerton and Academic VP John Gruber might be.

The men had done their homework before the meeting, but, even so, Lowell Walter brought them a surprise. He had discovered that a system-wide survey conducted by Donald Shelton of San Luis Obispo indicated that the SJSU Academic Senate had approved a policy (F80-1) defining emeritus status, enumerating emeritus faculty privileges, and encouraging the establishment of a voluntary Emeritus Faculty Association. President Fullerton had approved the policy on Feb. 20, 1981.

In late 1985 after this exploratory meeting, the President remained supportive of the formation of a SJSU Emeritus Faculty organization, and the Academic VP was also enthusiastic about it. On January 7, 1986 the organizers, now working with another seven interested faculty, sent an invitation to more than 350 emeritus SJSU faculty to discuss the establishment of the SJSU EFA. The expanded committee included Mary Bowman (Human Performance), Ardith Frost (Recreation), Betty Prange (Human Performance), Marshall Miller (Education), Dolores Spurgeon (Journalism), William Sweeney (Education), and Mildred Winters (History). Twenty-five people attended the February meeting, electing Mel Wright as President; Mary Bowman as Vice President; James Brown, Secretary; and Mary Gilbert, Treasurer. Three Members-at-Large were also elected: Norman Gunderson, William Sweeney, and Mildred Winters. The initial standing committees were Membership, Financial, Benefits and Services, Public Relations and Publications, and Activities. Within a year or two, there were also committees focused on Projects, Communications, and Amenities.

The purposes of the organization, as stated in the Constitution, have remained the same through time. They are to:

1. Help emeritus and retired faculty members to maintain a continuing and fruitful association with the University
 2. Keep emeritus and retired faculty informed of University affairs and develop means to facilitate their participation in the life of the University
 3. Secure and enhance the status, rights and privileges of the emeritus and retired faculty of San Jose State University
 4. Encourage and facilitate the emeritus and retired faculty to continue their scholarly and professional activities (teaching, research, writing, consultation) as contributing members of the academic community of the University
- Provide social, recreational and educational programs for emeritus and retired faculty
6. Contribute to achievement of the University mission by such means as may be determined by Association members.

From the start, the EFA had representation on the Academic Senate, an office, and bulk mailing privileges for letters and flyers. It also had 170 Charter Members (before counting any associate members).

*Also invited, but not in attendance were Peter Buzanski (History), Vergil Hughes (Education), Gerry Wheeler (History), and Pete Zidnak (Business). (to be continued)

Did You Know?

by Tim Hegstrom

1. Retired Lecturers can now apply for Emeritus Faculty Status? Recently, the university agreed that retired lecturers could apply for emeritus status. Emeritus status confers several privileges such as the use of university email and other technology (e.g., ZOOM), library privileges, parking, and more. (See <https://www.sjsu.edu/emmeritusfaculty/membership/sjsuemmeritusapp>).

Before applying you might want to check the online campus directory (<https://sjsuone.sjsu.edu/sjsuPhonebook>) to see if you already have Emeritus status. If you are not in the on-line directory, you probably don't have emeritus status and will likely want to apply for it. Several ERFA members indicated that once they had retired, it was difficult for former students or colleagues to contact them. One way to make it possible for former students or colleagues to contact you is to maintain an sjsu.edu email account, so that you appear in the campus directory.

A link to the Emeritus recommendation form can be found at the ERFA site above or on the Provost's office site (<https://www.sjsu.edu/provost/resources/forms.php>).

2. A current SJSU ID card (Tower Card) can come in handy in the age of COVID? (Hint: You can use it to swipe the lock on campus buildings which are now locked during business hours). It can also get you admitted to other campus events that require proof of vaccination.

Step I: Vaccination Reporting. To enter campus buildings, you must prove that you are fully vaccinated on the Self-Service Attestation page in SJSU @ Work. Before you click on that link, make sure you have already taken a photo of (or scanned) your vaccine card, because you need to upload a copy of it after you have entered the information on the dates of your vaccinations. You can email a photo of your vaccination card to yourself, put the photo on your desktop, and it will be ready to access when you are completing your vaccine reporting. Once your vaccination record is on file, you can receive the Tower Card.

Step II: Building Access On July 15, Traci Ferdolage, Senior Associate Vice President of Facilities Development and Operations, notified the campus by email that: Starting Monday, September 6, your Tower ID card will be required to access buildings. If you do not have a Tower ID card, please contact the Tower ID card office at myid@sjsu.edu. If your Tower ID card is malfunctioning, please contact the FD&O Customer Service center at workcontrol@sjsu.edu.

Your Donation Dollars Are Hard at Work

by Joan Merdinger

Over the last seven years, ERFA members have generously supported the research and creative activities of our SJSU faculty colleagues, giving a total of \$40,000 to award sixteen \$2500 grants. In case you missed their presentations at the May 14 Zoom meeting, this year's awardees are Dr. Darryl Eggers, a tenured member of the Department of Chemistry, and Dr. Ryan Skinnell, a tenured member of the Department of English and Comparative Literature.

Dr. Eggers will use his award to purchase materials to conduct experiments that will measure binding interactions with the spike protein found on the surface of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. If the strategy is successful, it will prevent the virus from entering human cells and replicating, helping to provide another path to effective treatment.

Dr. Skinnell will use his award to complete the research on his book in-progress titled, "Hitler's Rhetoric." He intends to continue his research in libraries that will give him access to additional primary source materials including Hitler's speeches, personal papers, and hard-to-access publications.

The ERFA Faculty Research & Creative Activity Awards program will be able to provide funding to our faculty colleagues only if ERFA members continue to support this important initiative. If you are able, please help ERFA keep the momentum going by sending a check made out to "Tower Foundation" and on the Memo line include "ERFA Faculty Award." Please send your check to our ERFA Tower Account representative, Mary Calegari, 1776 Lexington Street, Santa Clara, CA 95050. The Tower Foundation is a 501(C)3 organization, and your donation is tax deductible.

Academic Senate and Campus News

By Chris Jochim (ERFA Representative)

Lively discussion, scrutinizing questions.

At the first meeting of the Academic Senate for AY 2021-22, there was no legislation to be debated, nor any reports from the various policy committees. Nonetheless, there was still some of the lively discussion and scrutinizing questioning for which our Senate is known. After President Papazian made her report to the Senate, she faced tough questioning about the University's response to the Covid-19 crisis and the ongoing drama of the sexual abuse scandal that has rocked the Athletics administration, although this was before the release of the Summary of Findings from the US Department of Justice investigation on September 21, 2021. (See more on this matter below.)

Ron Rogers, Interim Vice Provost for Academic Innovation and Online Initiatives, explained the need for SJSU to be more engaged in online degree programs, stressing demographic changes and changes in the needs of new as well as continuing students. For example, he explained that the educational needs of California's adult population are growing at the same time that demographers are predicting fewer and fewer college-bound graduates of California high schools. He stated: "Growth in the online space will be critical as we position ourselves to respond to the enrollment declines resulting from demographic shifts in freshman and transfer student populations."

He also reported that, according to preliminary findings, many SJSU departments are interested in developing or expanding online degree or certificate programs. He outlined a plan according to which proposals would be developed for expedited approval of programs, which would be offered under non-state operations at SJSU, such as eCampus. These programs would have their own scheduling structure, consisting of, for example, five terms per year, rather than two semesters, because this structure would suit the needs of adult learners who would likely be holding down jobs or have other significant responsibilities beyond school work.

During questioning, Vice Provost Rogers acknowledged the risks of new programs based primarily outside state-supported operations, such as possible exploitation of part-time Lecturers, who would not have contractual protections in areas such as earning credit toward salary increases or meeting time-base requirements for health insurance. However, with the Provost's blessing, it was suggested that Lecturers could be hired into state-supported departments and then be bought out by those hiring for SJSU Online. While skeptics were not convinced that this would actually happen, it was proffered as an example of the University's intention to make a good faith effort to run SJSU Online in a way that would be financially feasible yet emphasize program quality. The goal would be to offer programs that were no less demanding or educationally valuable than comparable programs offered in the state-supported "side" of the University.

Turning to news related to the DOJ investigation, when Academic Senators questioned President Papazian about the sex abuse scandal involving Athletics Trainer Scott Shaw and Athletics administrators, she said she could not say much while there was a pending DOJ investigation. Just 8 days later the results of that investigation were released, followed by a series of reports in newspapers from the SJ Mercury News to the New York Times. These told the story of Coach Sage Hopkins's courageous contributions to SJSU student athletics and described the agreement between the DOJ and the CSU that will have stunning effects on SJSU.

In 2009, Coach Hopkins helped women swimmers file a Title IX sexual harassment complaint with the Office of Equal Opportunity at SJSU. In subsequent years, he sought to protect his women athletes from further abuse. Moreover, during the following ten years, he showed heroic perseverance in the face of repeated dismissive, accusatory, and even retaliatory responses to his efforts to restrict an athletic trainer's abuse of his athletes and to initiate a proper investigation into the original as well as later allegations of abuse.

He ultimately succeeded in attracting attention to various acts of abuse and retaliation in 2019 when he provided over 300 pages of evidence to the University's Title IX Coordinator as well as to the NCAA, and, in 2020, when he filed a Whistle Blower complaint with the CSU. Most importantly for SJSU, his actions ultimately resulted in the DOJ-CSU agreement that called for unprecedented monetary awards to women athletes who had suffered sexual abuse, major changes in the structure and operations of the University's Title IX Office, and a request that "SJSU's President will express appreciation, in writing, for Employee A's [Sage Hopkins'] efforts to protect Student-Athletes from Sexual Harassment by the Athletic Trainer."

There will surely be further news about this matter, if for no other reason than that lawsuits from student athletes and Coach Hopkins himself are working their way through the courts. For their part, SJSU Senators will be seeking answers to questions they are likely to pose to SJSU administrators at future meetings of the Academic Senate.

Chat Room

As a reminder, this is a section with news about travels and activities volunteered by the membership. Members are invited to send news about themselves to Nancie Fimbel at fimbeln@gmail.com or by snail mail at

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In Memoriam

- Patricia Backer (Technology)
- Susana Liu (Library)
- Mary Male (Education)
- Hugh Mumby (Physical Education)



SJSU ERFA Executive Board

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