

SJSU ERFA Newsletter  
Winter 2022 Volume 36 Number 2  
A Newsletter of the SJSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

**President's Message:** Transformation of services complete!  
By Mary Jo Gorney-Moreno

**Project Completed: SJSU ERFA organization activities are now digital**

This year SJSU ERFA Board members completed the transformation of all our services to digital delivery. It has been a multi-year process beginning with the digital delivery of the Newsletter, led by Newsletter Editors Don Keeseey and Nancie Fimbel, and Designer Clyde Lawrence. However, this team still provides mail service to members who do not have digital access.

In 2020, we updated our By-Laws to allow Board meetings on Zoom hosted by our then-President Chris Jochim. Next, due to the pandemic, Chris also managed our Zoom member programs, moderated by Past Presidents Tim Hegstrom and Jackie Snell, offering a combination of Zoom interactive meetings and webinars organized by Program Committee members Carmen Sigler, Barbara Conry, Bill McCraw, and Lucy McProud. During this period, we initiated discipline-based interactive Zoom meetings hosted by Board members and volunteers. The Nursing Zoom meeting continues quarterly. Contact me if you would like to host Zoom meetings for your faculty. Due to the continuing efforts of our ERFA Research & Awards Committee, Joan Merdinger, Lucy McProud, and Elaine Collins, our ERFA RSCA award application was sent digitally to all faculty. Next, in the Spring 2022 Newsletter, Web Administrator Bethany Shifflett announced the completion of the overhaul of the entire ERFA website, "to make it more mobile friendly; establish greater consistency in structure, content, and tone; and ensure the content is compliant with accessibility standards." We hope that you have had the opportunity to enjoy the revitalized site at <https://www.sjsu.edu/emeritusfaculty>.

Beginning in Summer 2022, under the skillful, persistent guidance of the Web Administrator and the Membership Committee, Susan McClory, Joan Merdinger, and Beth Von Till, a digital membership form was created along with a PayPal link, allowing members to pay membership dues online. This conversion was not an easy process and required several iterations, including coordination with Treasurer Bill Campsey. (Note: You may still pay by check if that is your preference.)

Also in 2022, the Board approved new communication guidelines. With the assistance of the Web Administrator, responses to an email from the ERFA member list are now seen only by the original sender and not by all the members. To clarify, here are some points regarding use of the mailing list:

- Feel free to share ERFA-related information with all.

- If responding to a message, please reply to just the sender. To facilitate this, the default settings for our list are designed so that when you click “reply” your message will go to just the sender rather than the whole list.
- If in doubt about whether a message is appropriate for the whole list, confer with me.

### **Looking Forward**

Never fear! We have not forgotten the joy of in-person activities. Our Program Committee, plus the Activities Committee, Lonna Smith, Elba Maldonado-Colon, and Lucy McProud, are busy planning events that will bring us face-to-face often. Below in the Newsletter, you will see pictures of some of those able to attend the in-person Holiday Celebration at the MLK Library. In May, we plan to offer the always well-attended Spring in-person luncheon and Business Meeting. We also plan to continue to offer programs by Zoom for our distant and less mobile members. Wishing you all very Happy Holidays and a Joyous and Healthy New Year!

### **SJSU President Appointed**

Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson will become the 31st President of San Jose State University on January 16, 2023. Since 2015 she has served as the President of Texas A&M University-San Antonio. She completed a BA in management at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and an MBA at the University of Alaska Anchorage. She earned a doctorate in educational leadership at Fresno State University where she was VP for Administration and CFO from 2004-2015.

### **Chat Room; Special News from and about our members**

**Yudhi Ahuja** (Marketing & Business Analytics, '18) participated in the 49th World Conference of the International Federation for Training and Development in May 2022 in New Delhi, India. The theme of the conference was Strategies for an Agile Workforce Culture: Pathways to the New Age.

**Sheldon Borenstein** (Animation/Illustration, '20) painted the beautiful watercolor of the MLK Library used on our holiday party invitation. Thank you, Sheldon!

**Jill Cody** (Recreation Management, '06) is completing her fourth year as producer and host of “Be Bold America!” ([ksqd.org/be-bold-america](https://ksqd.org/be-bold-america)) on KSQD 90.7 FM, a community non-profit radio station, and her second year for her podcast heard in such places as Iran and Algiers! She has interviewed well-known people like John Rothmann, formerly of KGO Radio, Professor Ruth Ben-Ghiat, an expert on authoritarianism, and Captain Pete Bethune, a real-life Indiana Jones for endangered species.

**Howard Combs** (Marketing & Decision Sciences, '19) will be in Bangkok, Thailand, teaching at Chulalongkorn University where he is a Visiting Professor in the Faculty of Commerce and Accountancy in 2023. When in the U.S., he splits time between his home in Orlando, Florida, and his condo in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina.

**Phyllis M. Connolly** (Nursing, '11) reports for herself and Marian Yoder (Nursing, '08) that between 5 and 20 of the Retired Faculty of the School of Nursing continue to meet on Zoom quarterly. They are seeking an annual update from the Director of the School of Nursing. In addition, they are discussing an American Nurses Association proposed Position Statement titled "Unveiling Racism in Nursing." Contact Phyllis at [connollydr@gmail.com](mailto:connollydr@gmail.com) to join the next Zoom call, scheduled for January 12 at 3:00 p.m.

**Bill DeVincenzi** (Accounting & Finance, '13) was named Climate Champion of the Year in June by the City of San Jose. He will be retiring from his position as Faculty in Residence for Sustainability at SJSU in December.

**Michael James Fallon** (Sociology, '17) has crafted an abridged version of James Joyce's Ulysses for its centennial. Ulysses Abridged is one-third shorter, leaving the original characters, plots, motifs, and Joycesian prose to be enjoyed by new readers, as well as those who would like to experience Bloomsday again. Contact Michael at [michael.fallon@sjsu.edu](mailto:michael.fallon@sjsu.edu) for info on buying a copy.

**Alan Finkelstein** (Nutrition & Food Science, '18) has published Early American Food: The Convergence of Old and New World Foods, based on work he researched while teaching NUFS 144 Cultural Foods.

**Carol Mukhopadhyay** (Anthropology, '11) published a chapter in the Palgrave Handbook of Women and Science Since 1660 titled "The Cultural Context of Gendered Science: India."

**Lonna Smith** (Secondary Education/LLD, '04) visited her cousin in Maui in November and enjoyed a relaxing time in warm weather. Lonna's cousin lives far away from the popular tourist attractions, so Lonna got to see a different side to Maui, one with picturesque villages, uncrowded beaches, and friendly people.

### **CalPERS Information - Reimbursement for IRMAA Premium By Joan Merdinger**

In late November of each year, every Medicare recipient receives a letter from Social Security titled "Social Security Administration Important Information." This letter informs recipients of the rate for the Medicare deduction from their Social Security monthly check to pay for Medicare Part B and Medicare Part D benefits for the upcoming year. As a retiree in CalPERS, you are reimbursed each month – in your retirement CalPERS check – for the basic Social Security Medicare Part B premium. For 2023, the standard Medicare Part B premium reimbursement will be \$164.90 per person. This is a decrease of \$5.20 from the 2022 rate of \$170.10.

If you think you may be eligible for additional reimbursement because you have an IRMAA (income-related monthly adjustment amount) which increases your premiums

due to a higher income, you must apply to CalPERS in writing, and this must be done each year. You are also able to apply for IRMAA reimbursement for prior years. For each method of application, you need to include a copy of your November 2022 letter from the Social Security Administration which describes your Medicare premiums for the upcoming year (make a copy of each and every page). If you are married or in a domestic partnership, and your spouse is included on your CalPERS benefits, include a copy of the complete letter to your spouse, as well.

You can apply for your IRMAA reimbursement in one of the following three ways:

- Mail your written request along with the required materials to: CalPERS Member Account Management Division, Attention: Medicare Administration, P.O. Box 942715, Sacramento, CA 94229-2715;
- Fax your written request and all the required documents to the following: (800) 959-6545; or
- (3) Go to your individual CalPERS account and upload your required documents directly to CalPERS.

Expect a response from CalPERS within a few weeks. It will then take from 30 to 90 days before the additional reimbursement is reflected in your CalPERS retirement check. See Medicare Enrollment Guide, August 2022.8.1, pp. 16-17. You can find this information in the CalPERS Health Benefits Program, Publication HBD-65, at the following link: <https://www.calpers.ca.gov/docs/forms-publications/medicare-enrollment-guide.pdf>

## **Call for Nominations**

At the next SJSU ERFA annual business meeting, to be held in conjunction with our Spring 2023 Luncheon, the Nominating Committee will be recommending a slate of candidates to serve on the Executive Board, and members in attendance will cast their votes. The elective positions to be filled this year are

- Vice-President (to serve as President in the 2024-2025 year),
- Secretary (2-year term),
- Academic Senate Representative (1-year term),
- and two Member-at-Large positions (2-year terms).

If you are interested in being a candidate for any of these positions or would like to submit a nomination, please email Elaine Collins at [elaine.collins@sjsu.edu](mailto:elaine.collins@sjsu.edu) for details. Nominations close on February 1, 2023.

The President has the authority to appoint members to certain positions. If you are interested in joining a committee, or serving as Co-Editor of the Newsletter or Chair of the Film Committee, please let Elaine know that, too.

## **My Bi-Polar Year**

### **By Carol Christensen**

The first of my “bi-polar” trips was to Antarctica with two stops in Argentina. It was February, and COVID restrictions were in effect. To join this trip, I had to be vaccinated and have a negative PCR test 72 hours before travel. Regulations imposed by the US, Argentina, and the ship meant I had 10 COVID tests in total and wore a mask except when outside.

The second trip, in August, was to Svalbard, 500 miles from the North Pole, with two stops in Norway. For this trip there were no COVID restrictions, only recommendations for safe travel. I had one COVID test after I arrived home because my roommate wrote that she tested positive. My test was negative.

There were many similarities to the trips: same tour company, cold climates within 500 miles of the South or North Pole, and 10 days on a small ship with many excursions in Zodiacs (rigid-hulled inflatable boats). As with the COVID testing, there were also many differences in the trips. In the south, we were 87 passengers on a ship that could hold 150, organized into smaller groups that were virtual bubbles. For example, my small group of 21 ate meals at the same tables for each seating (no buffet), we sat with our group at lectures and other meetings, and we left the ship with our small group. We could mingle with those in other groups only during free time. In the north, there were more passengers (157 in 7 small groups) and fewer restrictions. Breakfast and lunch were buffets, we sat anywhere in the dining room for all meals, and the only activities with our smaller group were shore and Zodiac excursions. We were asked to wear masks when not eating or in our rooms, but many ignored this. No one on the February trip tested positive for COVID; in August two people tested positive for COVID on day 6 on the ship. They and their roommates were confined to quarters for the rest of the trip.

In February, we boarded the ship in Ushuaia, the world’s southern-most city, and headed for the Antarctic Peninsula. The first night was spent in the Beagle Channel to avoid a storm. Unfortunately, we didn’t miss all the bad weather and the trip leaders talked about being in the “fake Drake.” We next crossed the Drake Passage and experienced another day of rough seas with the outside decks too dangerous to use. Once across, the water was calm, and we enjoyed landings and Zodiac rides. We traveled the Antarctic Peninsula with stops at three penguin colonies (Chinstrap, Adele, Gentoo), one rescue station, and a closed research station. The penguins were quite unafraid of people, and our biggest problem was staying out of the penguin highways, the paths the penguins take from rookeries to the sea. We had many Zodiac rides to see glaciers, seals, whales, and many sea birds including wandering albatross. The gigantic icebergs, as tall as 3- to 5-story buildings, were amazing. The landscape was primarily black and white: lots of snow and black peaks showing above the snow. After seeing this magnificent area, we returned to the Drake Passage. With 20-foot waves slowing our progress, all were happy when we were moored at the dock in Ushuaia.

Up north we flew from Oslo to Longyearbyen, Svalbard, the world's northern-most city. We boarded the ship and set off to cruise around the archipelago. The seas were calm, allowing us to have daily shore visits and Zodiac cruises. Before each shore visit, trip leaders would scout the area for landing sites and polar bears. They carried 30-06 "bear" rifles; thankfully they did not have to use them. A bear sighting would abort any landing. When on shore, some of the trip leaders served as boundary markers beyond which we were not allowed. There was considerably less snow and smaller glaciers in the Arctic than in Antarctica. The icebergs were also fewer and smaller. (We learned to call them "bergy bits" if they were less than 20 feet in height.) The animals were also quite different; in the north there were reindeer, polar bears, walrus, and arctic foxes because land is more available year round. The animals in the south mainly dwell in the ocean except for the few birds that come on land to breed and return to the sea when the chicks are mature enough.

Both trips were amazing; these places are like nowhere else on earth. What surprised me was that both climates were warmer than I expected at 34 to 42 degrees F. I often took off my arctic jacket when hiking as it was simply too warm. What delighted me was that the crew and trip leaders were so knowledgeable that they enhanced my experiences in these unique areas measurelessly.

### **Xmas with the Grandkids by John Pollock**

One of the Magi, a camel, and a dumbfounded angel  
flung across the room before an adult  
can race to the creche—a shepherd, with his staff  
broken beside him, already face down on the floor.  
By now, baby Jesus crouches in panic, hiding behind  
the manger, having seen Joseph and Mary helpless  
to protect Him from the playful hands  
of an impetuous two-year old (for whom, of course,  
literally nothing is sacred).

Strands of artificial straw, along with  
the parents' embarrassed apologies,  
drift down like yellow snowflakes, blanketing  
the scene of the unholy mayhem.

The photo probably won't be featured  
on next year's family Christmas card.

## **Did You Know?** **By Tim Hegstrom**

**You can continue to use computer applications and university licensed software connected to the Spartan app portal ([one.sjsu.edu](http://one.sjsu.edu)) as an emeritus faculty member.** Simply maintain your SJSU ID and password and use these at the website. If you need help renewing your password, contact the IT help desk ([itservicedesk@sjsu.edu](mailto:itservicedesk@sjsu.edu) or 408-924-1530) in Clark 102. Our experience is that they are very accommodating. Maintaining or re-establishing your sjsu.edu email account can be very useful if you want to stay connected to the university. Besides email, other applications are available to emeritus faculty. For example, a university directory can be found through the [one.sjsu.edu](http://one.sjsu.edu) portal. The on-line Spartan Daily can be found there with an article about the new SJSU President. Any emeritus faculty member can set up Zoom meetings through the portal. During the worst of the pandemic, most ERFA meetings were held through Zoom. Also, we have used the survey and quantitative analysis tools available from Qualtrics when surveying ERFA membership. If emeritus faculty have an existing Qualtrics account, they can continue to use it. To get started with Qualtrics, go to the portal or <http://sjsu.qualtrics.com/>. There are many applications available. Go to [one.sjsu.edu](http://one.sjsu.edu) and explore.

**The Clipper Card is a good way for seniors to “go green” and travel around the Bay Area inexpensively** Our ERFA colleague Hanns Hohmann explained this to me: The Clipper Card (also available as an app for your smartphone) is a very efficient and convenient way of accessing all means of public transportation around the entire San Francisco Bay Area (including CalTrain, BART, Muni, SamTrans, VTA, etc.). You put a certain amount (say, \$60.00) into your Clipper account, and the card/app readers will deduct the fare as you enter each conveyance. On CalTrain you will sign out at your destination, on BART this happens automatically when you pass the exit barrier using your card/app. You can also set a certain amount (say, \$10.00) below which the next tranche of money will be transferred from your credit card to your Clipper account, so you will never run out. If you sign up for a senior card, you automatically get the considerable senior discounts. For further details see [www.clippercard.com](http://www.clippercard.com).

For information provided in previous Did You Know columns, check our website: <https://www.sjsu.edu/emeritusfaculty/membership/member-benefits.php>

## **Campus News** **Academic Senate Business**

### **By Chris Jochim**

At the October 10 Senate Meeting, the Chair announced that the California State Legislature passed AB 928 in October 2021 to require a single lower-division general education pathway in the community colleges, CSU, and UC. This is now a matter of law. The Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates (ICAS) has been given the responsibility of shaping this new GE pathway, known as the California General

Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal GETC), and has released a proposal meeting the requirements of AB 928. All CSU campus Senate Chairs have been charged with submitting feedback about their Senates' views that ultimately takes one of the following three positions regarding the ICAS Cal GETC proposal: (a) support the June 2022 ICAS Cal GETC proposal; (b) recommend specific changes that satisfy the requirements of AB 928 with rationale; or (c) announce an inability to come to a consensus.

Although no new policies were approved, there were two important first readings of proposals from the Organization and Government Committee (O&G) and the Curriculum and Research Committee (C&R), respectively. O&G proposed a Senate Management Resolution titled Update of the Standing Rules of the Academic Senate (First Reading). This resolution proposes that each committee and the full Senate vote to choose in-person meetings, online meetings, or hybrid meetings at the beginning of each academic year.

C&R is proposing an amendment to the university policy on Academic Certificate Program Review and Approval Process. The amendment would update language in the policy, reflect current infrastructure, address staffing of certificates, add course requirements and timelines for completion of certificates, and correct an error in the description of grade averaging.

Senators heard a special report from two professors, one from CSU LA and one from Cal Poly SLO, on the CSU Course Equity Portal. This is a tool developed by the Chancellor's Office that provides information to faculty on the courses they teach. Specifically, it tells faculty whether students from groups that have historically struggled to succeed at the university level have performed worse than average in the classes taught by the faculty member. The data is 100% confidential and is accessible only by individual faculty. As background, the professors noted that equity gaps are affected by such factors as K-12 education and poverty, and that knowing about these gaps helps faculty address them in their courses.

At the October 24 Special Senate Meeting on University Budgets, Charlie Faas, VP for Administration and Finance, as well as Vincent Del Casino, Academic VP and Provost, reported to the Senate on the 2022-23 university budget. Overall, the report indicated a "good news, bad news" situation. On the good news side, the Governor's Budget released in January 2022 reflected a notable ongoing investment in higher education, which includes a five-year compact that CSU leaders have long desired. The multi-year compact features a pathway to grow CSU base funding each year from 2022/23 through 2026/27, with a plan to increase the state General Fund appropriation by at least five percent each year in return for the CSU meeting student-centric goals including expanded enrollment, student success and equity, continued affordability, and supported workforce preparedness.

On the bad news side, SJSU may continue to suffer budget deficits, as funding is not adequate to meet expenses, especially because of decreases in enrollment (and possible reductions in state allocations related to this). The university is taking steps to

boost enrollment and hoping for the best. Investments will continue to be made to ensure that the campus still moves toward the goals and vision of Transformation 2030 and to support students in their academic journey and collegiate experience at SJSU. Over the course of the year ahead, Cabinet and Divisions will be reviewing potential new revenue streams, exploring new enrollment strategies and examining the budget constraints of the campus, in order to develop a sustainable plan for healthy growth. For the immediate year 2022/23, all Divisions were asked to return 5% of their operating (non-salary) budget to the central university budget. More detail is available at the university budget website: <https://www.sjsu.edu/fabs/services/transparency/annual-reports>.

At the November 7 Senate Meeting, senators considered a number of first readings. They also received a special report from Deanna Fassett, Assistant Vice Provost for Faculty Development, on the Accessible Technology Initiative (ATI). ATI ensures that SJSU delivers programs, services and activities to all students, staff, faculty and the general public. This encompasses all technology products used to deliver academic programs and services, student services, information technology services, and auxiliary programs and services. ATI involves using an administrative application called Maxient for reporting, tracking, and, when appropriate, closing cases related to perceived problems with accessibility of services at SJSU. It also involves redesigning the university's accessibility website so that it:

- (a) provides clear pathways to resources for students, faculty, staff, and community members;
- (b) allows easy access to the Maxient "Accessibility Concern Form" used to report cases; and
- (c) gives information on accessibility reporting structures and current campus contacts.

For example, resources for faculty include the latest version of the Accessible Syllabus Template, course design help via the Ally program, and other relevant programs managed by staff at the Center for Faculty Development.

The final meeting of the Academic Senate for Fall 2022 is scheduled for December 5.

### **Emeritus, Retired Faculty Awards Tax Deductible Donation**

**By Lucy McProud, Jackie Snell & Beth Von Till**

As we approach the end of 2022, your ERFA Board is making its one appeal of the year to request that you donate to the ERFA Faculty Research and Creative Activity Award fund. This fund, created by the ERFA Board in 2014, is deposited in and administered by the SJSU Tower Foundation, a 501C (3) organization. As a result, all donations to the ERFA Faculty Research and Creative Activity fund are tax deductible.

On behalf of the membership of ERFA, the Board has now provided awards of \$2500 each for 18 faculty members—tenured, tenure—track and long—term lecturers—from AY

2014-2015 to the present. Check our website for some of our previous winners: <https://www.sjsu.edu/emeritusfaculty/docs/Awardees-Fact-Sheet-08-19-2022-update.pdf>. The Board is currently reviewing applications for the 2022-2023 awards.

Since our Spring Business Luncheon in 2015, the ERFA Board has invited each year's awardees to make short presentations about their work. It has been heartwarming to hear the gratitude of our younger colleagues for this important and most welcome opportunity to further their research and creative work.

These grants are not supported through our modest dues. Won't you please join your colleagues to 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." To be tax deductible for 2022, please send your check dated and postmarked by December 31, 2022, to our ERFA Tower Account liaison, Jackie Snell, 97 East Saint James Street #52, San Jose, CA 95112-4060. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

### **The 2022 Midterm Elections What Was on the Ballot and What Was at Stake By Jackie Snell**

On October 25th, ERFA held a webinar with political experts Garrick Percival and Mary Currin-Percival, two SJSU professors in the Political Science Department. After their successful talk on the 2020 elections, we invited them back for a repeat performance. Dr. Mary Currin-Percival focuses on elections and political participation, public opinion, and teaching and learning in political science. She is the Director of SJSU Institute of Public Affairs and Civic Engagement. She is also very active in San Jose Votes, which promotes voter registration, mobilization, education, and participation. Dr. Garrick Percival is Chair of the Department of Political Science and specializes in criminal justice reform, public policy, and state and local government. He has written *Smart on Crime: The Struggle to Build a Better American Penal System*. Together and with other colleagues, the Percivals have written *California's Recall Election of Gavin Newsom: COVID-19 and the Test of Leadership*. They have also co-authored, with Larry Gerston and Terry Christensen, the best-selling textbook *California Politics and Government: A Practical Approach*.

At our request, they focused especially on state and local issues but mentioned the importance of national issues on voter turnout. Speculating on which issues would motivate voters, they discussed abortion (Californians approved Prop 1, explicitly adding abortion and contraception rights to the state constitution), sports gambling (Californians defeated both gambling propositions in spite of record spending), and a tax on the rich to help convert to electric vehicles (Californians followed Governor Gavin Newsom's opinion that this would be a subsidy for Lyft and defeated the proposition). The Percivals did not give recommendations on how anyone should vote but provided a balanced overview of the propositions and candidates. As a resident of San José, I was surprised to hear them say there really wasn't much difference between the two candidates for mayor. In my opinion, both candidates emphasized the importance of

solving the problem of homelessness, but one campaigned primarily on short-term solutions while the other has been working on longer term solutions for years. This race broke records for fund raising and expenditures, not only for in-state money but also for out-of-state money.

If you live in California, your ballot included a list of judges and the question of whether to continue each. This was confusing to many of us because there is little or no information available on any one of them. I was relieved to learn that many people leave that section of the ballot blank, something I happily did.

If some of the issues didn't go the way you had hoped, you may still get some insight into why by watching the video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0eVhpH2JT4Q>. Many thanks to the program committee, especially Bill McCraw, for organizing this helpful program and to Chris Joachim for handling the technology. In To show our appreciation to the Percivals, ERFA has made a small donation to the Political Science Department.

### **Report from CSU ERFSA State Council Meeting By Nancie Fimbel for Joan Merdinger and Chris Jochim**

ERFSA met by Zoom on October 26. Barry Pasternak, President, introduced the new Executive Director, Merry Pawlowski, Professor Emerita of English at Bakersfield. See her message below. She began her term of office on July 1. Also introduced was our own Bethany Shifflett, the new ERFSA Archivist.

The Membership Committee reported that membership is up for the first time in a number of years. Chair Aubert attributes this to the half-price first-year membership offer that has been in effect for the last six months. The Council voted to extend the sale through July 1, 2023.

The Health Benefits Committee reported that there is no new information on the Long-Term Care lawsuit, *Wedding v CalPERS*. Unless an amended settlement is agreed to, a jury trial is expected to be held in May 2023. The Committee also reported that CalPERS has extended the contract with its Pharmacy Benefit Manager, Optum RX, for two years. CalPERS is preparing a Request for Proposals to solicit companies to apply and compete for a new PBM contract.

The statewide Academic Senate Representative reported on the latest meeting. There was discussion of the CSU/State Compact, which is regarded positively by the CSU. The compact stipulates a 5% increase in funding to the CSU each year for the next five years. Having knowledge of the budget in advance allows for better planning. There are some conditions in the compact, but Senators believe it provides a good base for interaction with the legislature regarding budget. Title IX was also a major topic of discussion. Currently consultants are visiting the campuses with the intent of reporting their findings to the CSU and DOJ. The Senate also elected Julia Curry (Chicana &

Chicano Studies) from SJSU as one of five people to serve on the CSU Faculty Trustee Recommending Committee.

The Grants Committee recently surveyed past CSU-ERFSA grant recipients to gain a fuller understanding of the benefits of the small grant program. Two SJSU recipients' responses were included in the report:

Terry Christensen whose grant provided essential funding for technical assistance in making 20 video oral histories of San Jose politics accessible through YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKpv9-EjzubQw6zy69-HFnmXMrwLgPil>.

Katharine Davies Samway whose grant paid for the transcription of interviews with K-8 teachers about the impact of the COVID pandemic on their teaching. She is in the process of writing a manuscript for publication.

Since 1997, the CSU-ERFA Charitable Foundation has awarded 82 grants for a total of \$77,371.

ERFSA also tracks the bills being discussed by California legislators that affect higher education and retirees. Your membership adds weight to the voice of the organization. Becoming a member is easy; go to [csuerfsa.org](http://csuerfsa.org) and click on Join Online or call 877-514-0660. Join now for first-year discounted membership fees.

### **A Message from Merry Pawlowski, Executive Director, CSU-ERFSA**

As your newly elected Executive Director, I'm happy to report that my first few months in the position have been both enjoyable and productive. As I work toward achieving a primary goal to increase membership, I'm pleased to announce that we have a new affiliate at CSU Channel Islands, which now consists of approximately 16 members and counting. Since I began as Executive Director, I have signed more than 1,000 recruitment letters to newly retired faculty on all CSU campuses, and we have added 47 new members in just the last 3 months, showing a positive gain in membership for the first time in several years.

I hope to learn what activities are popular with San Jose State's retired faculty. I am willing to visit your campus, help host an event, or support you in any way that I can. My goal is to make CSU-ERFSA visible on your campus.

I look forward to the challenges the next few years will bring and hope that I can make a difference growing and strengthening our organization. Mail to [mpawlowski@csub.edu](mailto:mpawlowski@csub.edu)

**Be Part of SJSU History**  
**Join the ERFA ScholarWorks Biography Project**  
**By Joan Merdinger**

By Joan Merdinger

In 2018, the ERFA Board approved the creation of an expanded online version of the 1997 ERFA Biographies project. This partnership with the University Library and its institutional repository, ScholarWorks, was intended to ensure that faculty achievements and contributions to the University and the community would be recognized, remembered, and readily accessible. The SJSU ERFA Emeritus and Retired Faculty Biographies, located at [https://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/erfa\\_bios/](https://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/erfa_bios/), now totals 358 members. The ten most recent additions are these:

- 358. Onkvisit, Sak (Marketing)
- 357. Lu, Nancy (Nutrition & Food Sciences)
- 356. Horstman, Cay (Computer Science)
- 355. Bernardini, Eugene (Humanities)
- 354. Ozemek, Haluk (Computer Engineering)
- 353. Steinberg, Jill A. (Counseling & Psychological Services; Psychology; Undergraduate Studies)
- 352. Hu, Xiaolu (Counselor Education)
- 351. Snell, Jacqueline (Jackie) S. (Marketing & Business Analytics)
- 350. Martin, Susan Work (Office of the President; Accounting)
- 349. Fallon, Michael (Sociology and Interdisciplinary Studies; Undergraduate Studies)

The ERFA Biographies project preserves information about the lives and contributions of retired faculty who have participated in the University community as teachers, counselors, librarians, scholars, and administrators. Because the project has always been voluntary, biographies are not included for every retired SJSU faculty member; however, the biographies website still provides an excellent picture of the wide variety of contributions and interests of retired faculty. Particularly important are personal comments about the University and community; these cannot be found elsewhere and provide a more complete picture of campus life. As an example of the Personal Commentary included in her biography, Arlene Okerlund writes:

My career at San José State has made possible a life far more interesting than I ever imagined while growing up on a farm in western Maryland and attending a small rural school from which 44 seniors graduated in my class of 1956. Education made the difference—which explains my fierce, perhaps even obsessive, devotion to the students, faculty, and curriculum at SJSU.

In the Biographies Committee report to the ERFA Board in 2018, recommending the expansion of the ERFA Biographies project, the conclusion reads: “If the heart of any University is its faculty, the biographies of all such faculty members are an important part of that University’s history.” Please add your biography to that of your ERFA colleagues and make your contribution to the history of our University. Information about

how to submit your biography is available at <https://www.sjsu.edu/emeritusfaculty/membership/member-bios.php>

~~~~~  
**In Memoriam**

Gilbert Guerin (Special Education)  
Azmy Ibrahim (Sociology)  
Kathy Sucher (Nutrition & Food Science, 1982-2011)  
Monte Vernon Waller-Wharton (associate member)

~~~~~

**SJSU ERFA Executive Board**

President— Mary Jo Gorney-Moreno  
Vice Pres. — Elaine Collins  
Secretary — Celia Bakke Treasurer—Bill Campsey  
Members at Large-- Lucy McProud, Beth Von Till, Elba Maldonado-Colon  
Academic Senator –Chris Jochim  
Past President—Jackie Snell

**Ex Officio Members**

Membership--Joan Merdinger, Beth Von Till, Susan McClory  
Consolations - Elba Maldonado-Colon  
Newsletter-- Nancie Fimbel; David Mesher (copy editor); Clyde Lawrence (Layout/ Design)  
Activities-- Lonna Smith, Elba Maldonado-Colon, Lucy McProud  
Archivist—Celia Bakke  
CSU-ERFA Reps-- Nancie Fimbel, Chris Jochim, Joan Merdinger  
Program Committee-- Barbara Conry, Bill McCraw, Lucy McProud, Carmen Sigler  
Web Administrator - Bethany Shifflett  
Liaison to the Tower Foundation -- Jackie Snell  
Privileges and Advocacy— Tim Hegstrom, Nancie Fimbel, Bethany Shifflett

SJSU ERFA Office MacQuarrie Hall 438D  
Email: [celia.bakke@sjsu.edu](mailto:celia.bakke@sjsu.edu)  
Visit the SJSU ERFA Website at [www.sjsu.edu/emeritusfaculty](http://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 editors or of San Jose State University.