SJSU presents extraordinary opportunities to reflect on the past and envision the future. – Mary Conroy

My 40 + years have seemed to fly by-

I came to SJSU as a temporary full-time faculty with 12 years of ICU Nursing and as a new faculty just out of my Master’s program. Later, after many years of teaching, I learned that students and fellow faculty were really my best mentors and teachers. During a long 7-yr process of working full-time and getting my Doctorate, I came to fully appreciate more than ever, the challenges our multigenerational, diverse populations face. I retired from full-time teaching and administration in our Nursing program 3 yrs ago and have eased into Covid and teaching part-time now. My biggest challenges were probably when we all came to teach online and learn new methods of teaching. The campus landscape has changed dramatically over 41 years, as have the additions of 1-2 newer garages.

However, the challenge on on-campus parking has increased exponentially in the recent few 5 yrs. Faculty and staff have fewer spots devoted specifically to them (while hiring more each year). These types of issues make teaching really more difficult than it needs to be. I do not want to end on a negative tone.

I really owe much of my success to realizing that few Universities match SJSU, for recognizing the commitments of all aspects of service that our faculty can offer. As an Undergraduate Coordinator (as well as teaching) the past 10 years, I have been exposed to many students. I tried to estimate, but would guess that approximately 5000 have taken my Pharmacology course alone and an easy 3500 in other courses as well. Last week, I heard from a student that I taught 13 years ago as an Undergraduate, who is now going on for his Doctorate and has finished Masters, and while attending here, continued to be a full-time flight attendant during a rigorous Nursing curriculum. Such students continue to make me grateful I chose teaching here. I know our past graduates are making a difference in our health care field. I wish success to all who follow. – Sue Malloy
Forty years is a long time. I’ve been a faculty member through a lot of up’s and downs. Have served under several presidents, college deans, and department chairs. Through it all, I still love teaching at SJSU. When I left UCLA in 1981, I wanted to focus more on teaching than research. SJSU provided the perfect fit, small classrooms where the professor actually taught the students, instead of large lecture halls where TA’s did most of the teaching and interaction with students. Most of my teaching career consisted of teaching Statistics and Econometrics. I’ve been very blessed by students who contacted me post-graduation and shared how these two classes helped them succeed in a tough job market. – Tom Means

I taught my first class in the CSU as a graduate student 58 years ago. After stints at USC and Cal State, Long Beach, I came to SJSU in 1981. I was attracted by the opportunity to live in a rural environment and teach and coach at a first-class urban University. The infrastructure change to our University and local community has been an amazing experience. I have never looked back. Thank you for this incredible journey. – Richard Montgomery