

San Francisco State University Retirement Association

Off-Campus Bulletin – Spring 2011

President's Corner – President Tom Spencer

In this spring issue of our *Off-Campus Bulletin*, I wanted to brief you on some of the initiatives your Board of Directors has taken on behalf of the Retirement Association. The board has been busy.

In January, we directed a letter to VP Leroy Morishita asking for help in resolving two issues which have been thorns in the association's side for years. We want to gain access to information about those who are retiring each year from our campus, both faculty and staff, so that we can invite them to join the RA. At present, ERFA (our state organization) seems to know more about our campus retirees than we do. Secondly, we ask the VP to allow staff retirees, like emeritus faculty, to retain their SFSU email accounts after retirement, if they wish to do so. At the time of this writing, we are waiting for responses to these requests.

In February, our entire board, along with representatives from the University Women's Association and the Friends of the Library, met with the new VP for Advancement, Robert Nava, to discuss the 2% annual management fee recently imposed on endowment accounts by the Foundation. As the three of us (UWA, Friends, and RA) are strictly VOLUNTEER fund-raising organizations, we asked that this annual charge be waived for the three groups. Mr. Nava agreed to look into the matter and get back to us shortly. We remain optimistic that the administration will respond positively to our requests.

In addition to these issues, the board has completed an updating of the membership list and has this past week published the 2011 Directory. You should have received your copy in the mail. A very special thanks to Kay McGough for spearheading this time-consuming effort. Those who have not paid their membership dues recently have been dropped. We hope you will find the new directory easy to read and very useful in keeping in touch with your colleagues.

Our Travel Grant Awards committee (Gene Michaels, Julian Randolph and Dan Buttlair) will be initiating the application process shortly. As we alternate years between faculty and staff, this year the awards will go to staff members.

Don't forget to sign up for the ST. PAT'S luncheon on March 17th at the Basque Cultural Center. See you all there.

In Memoriam

* Jack Branmeir * Gerard Cook * Harold Cornacchia * Dolora Cunningham *

* Dorothy Danielson * John Glanville * Louise Grant * Robert Henderson * Robert Levit
*
* Roger Nixon * Joyce Terrien * Elizabeth Titsworth * Doreen Wood *

University Retirement Association Email Address: HYPERLINK

"mailto:retire@sfsu.edu" retire@sfsu.edu

University Retirement Association website: HYPERLINK "http://www.sfsu.edu/~retire"
www.sfsu.edu/~retire

Upcoming Events:

March 17: Annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon at the Basque Cultural Center

Are you looking forward to catching up with your retired colleagues from SF State? Please join the University Retirement Association on Thursday, March 17 at the Basque Cultural Center, located at 599 Railroad Avenue, South San Francisco, CA 94080. There will be Irish musical entertainment. Bar opens at 11:30, lunch served at 12 pm. Please return the enclosed flier and a check to Yolanda Thompson, 156 Lunado Court, San Francisco, CA 94127, (415) 334-1130.

May 4: Hard Hat Tour of J. Paul Leonard Library

Please join the San Francisco State University Retirement Association on Wednesday, May 4 for a hard hat tour of SF State's J. Paul Leonard Library. As you know, the library is under construction, and we are looking forward to seeing the many improvements to the site. University Librarian Debbie Masters will lead the tour. There is no cost for this event, but the tour will be limited to 20 people. Please return the enclosed flier promptly to Yolanda Thompson, 156 Lunado Court, San Francisco, CA 94127, (415) 334-1130.

Travel Grants:

The Board of Directors' Travel Grants Committee received and reviewed 35 applications from *faculty* in 31 different departments for Retirement Association Travel Grants in 2010. The committee selected 7 faculty from 7 different departments to each receive a \$500 grant. Their destinations covered the globe, from Helsinki to Singapore. A thank you from one said the grant "enabled me to do a great deal of research that will be critical to my professional development. This kind of support is really appreciated."

The Board is planning to award travel grants to *staff* in 2011. The State's never-ending budget cuts make our assistance more valuable than ever. We continue to seek donations to our Endowment Fund with the goal of being able to fund all the travel grants

from the investment earnings of the endowment.

Thank you to members who have recently contributed to the Endowment Fund to support future travel grants to faculty & staff: Patricia Ebersole; Laura Ware; Jilma Marshall; Elizabeth Snortum; Ronald Trauner; Elinor Charleston; Lin Bushart Ivory; Julian Randolph; Irene Poon Anderson; Stanford Johnson; Ralph Larson; and Jonathan Middlebrook in memory of Jane Gurko.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Retirement Association Endowment Fund, please make your check payable to “SFSU Retirement Association Endowment” and mail your donation to our treasurer: **Jim Van Ness, 922 Evergreen Way, Millbrae CA 94030.**

Welcome New Members!

*Barbara Buttlair * Kenneth Fehrman * Carol Langbort * Richard LeGates *
* Eldon Modisette * Siegfried Neustadter * William (Bill) Robinson * Susan Waldman *