

# San Francisco State University Retirement Association

## *Off-Campus Bulletin - Fall 2012*

SFSU Retirement Assn. c/o Development Office 1600 Holloway Avenue, ADM153, San Francisco, CA 94132 [www.sfsu.edu/~retire](http://www.sfsu.edu/~retire) email: [retire@sfsu.edu](mailto:retire@sfsu.edu)

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*By Tom Spencer*

Welcome everyone to another academic new year, 2012-13. Being retired and away from campus softens that September excitement of the beginning of a new semester. But for those on campus, the excitement is very real this fall including that of having a new leader, President Leslie Wong.

The Retirement Association launched the new year with a stimulating and enjoyable visit to our Romberg Tiburon Center (RTC) on September 13<sup>th</sup>. For those members and guests who participated, the day was informative and relaxing. The Director, Toby Garfield, talked with the group about the history of the site and the research being conducted there. Following a delicious lunch, we visited the research labs and interacted with students who are actively involved in the ongoing projects. And, of course, the physical setting for the Center provides continuous spectacular views of the bay.



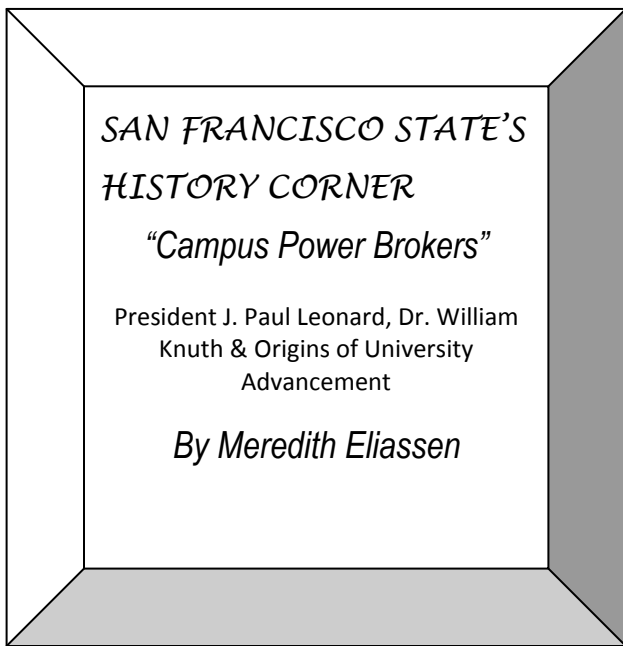
Barbara Sullivan, Dan McGough, Jerry Jayne and Tom Spencer

For those of you who were not able to participate but would like to visit the Center, Discovery Day is coming up. See the flyer in this *Bulletin* announcing the annual open house on October 21<sup>st</sup>. (You may recall that we featured an article on RTC in our February 2012 issue of the *Bulletin*.)

Please mark your calendars NOW and send in your reservation requests for our annual luncheon which will be on November 15<sup>th</sup> at the Basque Cultural Center. This is our traditional Thanksgiving gathering. We do have a few business issues to transact but the day is really one for socializing and catching up with friends. We have invited President Wong to join us for lunch.

In our June issue of the *Bulletin*, we announced the 7 winners of the \$500 Retirement Association Travel Grant awards for this last year. The award program is much appreciated by faculty and staff and a ray of light in these difficult budget times. The Association wants to continue this program but we need your help to do so. Please consider making a donation to the RA Travel Grant fund. Thanks.

Hope to see all of you at our various Retirement Association events throughout the year. Stay well.



The property for our current campus was purchased in 1939, however it took over a decade to start building the campus at Lake Merced. President J. Paul Leonard, an educator with great ambition started at San Francisco State in August 1945 and drove the building of our current campus. Dr. Leonard discerned that mechanisms were in place and harnessed them to “take a college with a creditable history... and build an entirely new campus...”

Dr. William E. Knuth, a bassoonist, started his career with the Music Department at San Francisco State in 1928. Knuth was instrumental in expanding the Music Department during the Great Depression by employing out-of-work professional musicians from the San Francisco Symphony to instruct while earning their teaching credentials. Knuth developed the Music Federation during the early-1930s, which controlled every musical activity in the college. In researching the rise and fall of San Francisco State’s first powerful student organization known as the Music Federation, I recently tripped over the

origins of what we today consider to be University Advancement.

The “Fed’s” Executive Board governed all student musical affairs in cooperation with Music Department faculty. It served as a financial umbrella for arranging community outreach and programs for all college activities requiring musical talent including assemblies, rallies, club meetings, events, and commencement exercises. Knuth was also known as the “father of the School of Creative Arst”, literally laying the conceptual groundwork for the bringing Theatre Arts, Music, Dance, Art, and Broadcasting under one divisional umbrella.

In January 1946, Knuth entertained about one hundred Music Department alumni in his home representing classes dating back to 1932 when the Music Federation was established. He became chairman of the Division of Creative Arts as Leonard initiated expansion of programs and formulated a General Education program in the post-World War II years when an influx of students attending college under the G.I. Bill brought additional government resources. The character of the campus changed with men outnumbering women (1.2 men to every female) for the first time in campus history. Leonard harnessed the spirit and enthusiasm of Music Fed to promote the campus’s image. A fundraising group was named, and soon a column called “Ye Olde Grads” appeared regularly in the student newspaper *The Golden Gater*. In January 1948, officers were elected for a new Alumni Association. Professor of Theatre Arts J. Fenton McKenna along with past Music Fed leaders produced a new kind of variety show called “Kampus Kapers” for an inaugural alumni event.

Membership in the Music Fed was limited for the first time to 500 students. In early 1949, the Associated Student no longer subsidized the Music Federation, and the Division of Creative Arts financed music activities. Since virtually all of the Fed's income came from their membership base, it was compelled to double membership dues for the first time in its history to 50 cents. The following semester, the Creative Arts Production Board sponsored all musical activities at San Francisco State. With substantial sums raised, construction of the first building on campus – the gymnasium – commenced in June 1949. Fed membership and clout diminished with the transformation.

## Our Solvang Visit

By

**Julian F. Randolph**

Every year my wife, Louise, and I drive to Southern California to visit cousins, uncles, and antique aunts. We plan that visit to coincide with the annual Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree. Our third goal is to visit towns that hold a special attraction for us. One of them is Solvang, a lovely town founded in 1911 by Danes and a popular tourist destination. It is particularly engaging since one side of Louise's family is Danish. I thought the gentle reader would find a page from my diary of that visit interesting and amusing.

**June 14, Thursday.** It was a long, clear day from Burbank to Solvang. Well, maybe a bit overcast. We took what seemed to be a circuitous route to get to Hiway 101, but we managed. The traffic was normal for

the greater L. A. area: slow drivers in the fast lane, trucks matching speed in parallel lanes, extensive backups on feeder lanes, and frequent stretches of 80 MPH progress. We stopped for a rest at the Gaviota Rest Stop opposite the Gaviota Rest Stop for traffic on the other side of the hiway.

Buellton provided the usual interesting sights on the way to Solvang: ostriches pecking for food, cows preparing to give milk, horses waiting to be saddled. We were encouraged by the presence of a garden supply shop, hoping to find some stepping stones to fill bare spots at home. What they had was very poor, so we settled for a swinging peacock with varicolored plastic and metal tail feathers.

We arrived in Solvang just in time for lunch at the Greenhouse Café, one of our favorites. Along with our chardonnay, we each had a combination open-face sandwich, with meat, greens and **havarti**. I took a picture of the plate to show our coffee shop friends in Albany who know how much I love that cheese.

Then it was time for shopping. We spent time in several stores satisfying our need to spend money; besides, we couldn't have our room until 2:30. We bought mini glass turtles, salt and pepper shakers in the shape of Swedish horses, a cat tile to replace the broken one, a tiny frog on a lily pad, the peacock mentioned above and the stork watch that Louise has attached to her purse to use as a weapon.

I bought a book sure to please: *A Glimpse in Time as Seen from the Solvang Restaurant* by Arne "Aebleskiver" Hansen. From about 1940 to 1976, Mr. Hansen was quite a traveler and entrepreneur, starting a café, selling his Danish pancakes

(*aebleskiver*) at county fairs and rescuing a stranded explorer by plane in the Arctic.

We lodged at our usual place, the Solvang Holiday Inn Express. We had experience with some of its peculiarities so we felt right at home. For instance, the bathroom is divided so that the wash basin area is separate from the commode.

Another curiosity was the imperfect signage in the motel. The general information says that the ice machine is on the first floor in Building B. You go onto that floor and there is no indication at all to guide you to the ice. It turns out that it is at the end of the hall behind a door simply labeled *Room 141*. Closer browsing reveals a handwritten message posted on the outside of the door at the far end of the building. But it does have at least one positive element unrelated to ice: a bathtub with an ADA-aware bathtub bottom so that you are not in constant peril of slipping and breaking a bone.



Louise Randolph enjoying the sun on our trip.

Dinner was as good as they come if not better. At the far end of Mission Street, the Viking Garden Restaurant on Alisal Road was a real find, thanks to Louise's searching. It calls its cuisine Mexican, European and Danish. It has the décor to match, with a blurb on Gorm the ancient king and brass plates large and small celebrating eaters of

diverse origins. While we waited to be served, a young lad outside was playing hide and seek, taking both parts.

My liver and bacon was excellent. I had almost forgotten what liver tasted like. Louise had pork tenderloin. Both had potatoes and red cabbage. I added a dish of vanilla ice cream with chocolate sauce topping. Both meals were so large that we took half of each back to the fridge in the motel to be consumed tomorrow.

**Friday, June 15.** The best laid plans struck: we forgot to retrieve the salads from the fridge so we didn't enjoy the second half of the dinner when we got home as planned.

*Are you an  
adventurer,  
ardent  
photographer or  
traveler?*

If so, and you'd like to share your experiences with your colleagues of the SFSURA, please contact Publications Editor, Kay McGough at [krmcgough@comcast.net](mailto:krmcgough@comcast.net).



## SAVE THE DATE!

### ROMBERG TIBURON CENTER'S DISCOVERY DAY OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, October 21, 2012

11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Tiburon, CA

[www.rtc.sfsu.edu](http://www.rtc.sfsu.edu)



## IN MEMORIAM

*Norma Louise McCoy, Professor of  
Psychology 1963 - 2007 Passed Away in  
Palo Alto on August 22, 2012*

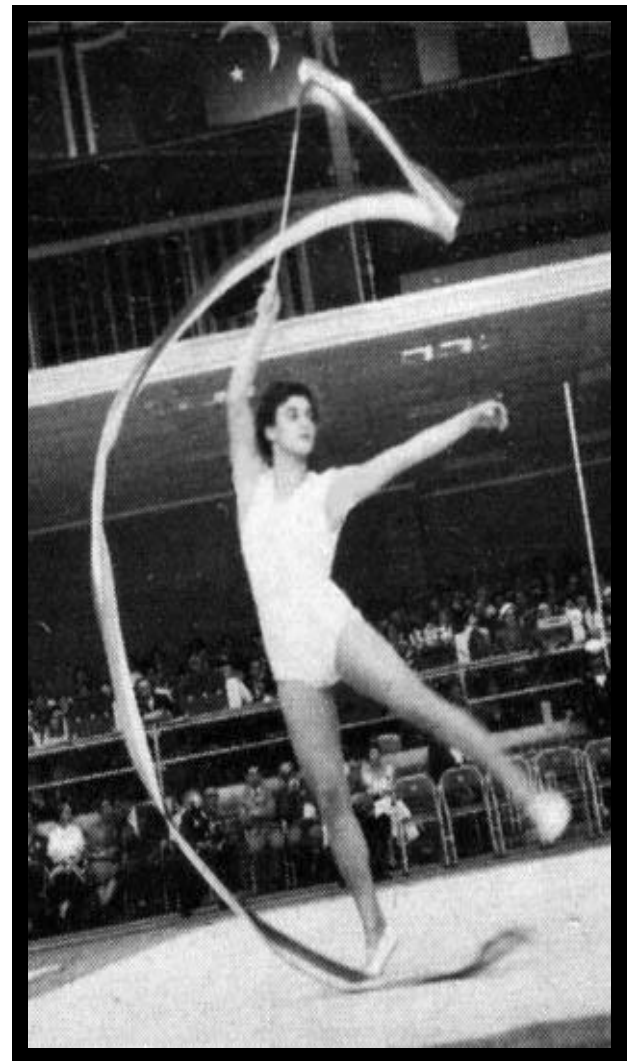
*Paul Rech, Professor Emeritus,  
Department of Information Systems  
and Business Analysis*

*James Leigh, Creative Writing,  
English and Journalism Departments  
1977-1980.*

## Revolution Games

The 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games were plunged into cold war intrigue as dozens of Hungarian athletes, unwilling to return home after Soviet tanks crushed a popular uprising against Communist rule, defected to freedom – with help from a young sports magazine.

San Francisco State University Retirement Association member Andrea Schmid Shapiro was one of those athletes who lived through this experience.



Andrea Schmid, Gymnast

***The following is excerpted from  
her biography.***

Andrea Schmid-Shapiro was the first of approximately 200,000 Hungarians to defect in light of Russian aggression in their beloved land. At the time of her defection she had won four Olympic medals competing for her native Hungary. She arrived in the U.S. unable to speak a word of English.

Following much diligent study and dedication, she graduated from the University of California.

Schmid became Head Coach of women's gymnastics at San Francisco State University (1963). She retired from coaching in 1979 but continued to teach at SFSU for many years.

She continues her love of gymnastics by serving as a judge at the Olympics and at many National and World competitions. She has served on the FIG Rhythmic Technical Committee and has authored or co-authored several publications and books – all relating to her beloved sport of gymnastics.

Now moving into a more relaxing retirement, she lives in Novato with husband Charles Shapiro, another former SFSU professor.



Evelyn Ballard would love to hear from you. Her daughter, Laurie, says he can be reached at 650-802-8028 directly in her room. Remember to speak loudly so she can enjoy the conversation.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

*Remember to update your  
Directory*

### CHANGES

**Shapiro, Andea Schmid**

Email: [andreash1a@gmail.com](mailto:andreash1a@gmail.com)

**Fisher, Newman**

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**Geisler, Gene**

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**Kahn-Hut, Rachael**

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**Willard, Allen**

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**Molyneaux, Glenn**

Email: [glennmolyneaux@gmail.com](mailto:glennmolyneaux@gmail.com)



Bill Mason, Bob Craig and Kay McGough at last year's General Meeting

SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION



GENERAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON AT THE  
BASQUE CULTURAL CENTER

\* \* NOVEMBER 15, 2012 \* \*

Please join the San Francisco State University Retirement Association on Thursday, November 15, 2012, for our annual General Meeting and Thanksgiving Luncheon at the Basque Cultural Center. It's a great time to reflect on this season of thanks and celebrate the holiday with our colleagues and friends. President, Dr. Leslie Wong will be our guest.

**LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT APPROXIMATELY NOON**

The Basque Cultural Center is located at 599 Railroad Avenue, South San Francisco, CA 94080-3450. There is ample FREE parking. Please indicate a meal choice for each guest. Entrée, coffee and dessert are included in the lunch price of \$30 per person.

	Self	Guest 1	Guest 2	Guest 3
Salmon Plate	_____	_____	_____	_____
Turkey Plate	_____	_____	_____	_____
Vegetarian Pasta	_____	_____	_____	_____

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Meals \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ and Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send a check, payable to "SFSU Retirement Association," for the total amount by November 1<sup>st</sup> to:**

**Ms. Yolanda Thompson, 156 Lunado Court, San Francisco, CA 94127, (415) 334-1130**

## Where are we going next??

Watch for information in our 2013 Off-Campus Bulletin for information on our next event.



Lunch in Santa Rosa after the Tzars Exhibit



View of the Bay from the Romberg Tiburon Center



Watching artisans at work at the Lundberg Studio

## Where would you like to go?

If you have any suggestions, please send them to Kay McGough at [krmcgough@comcast.net](mailto:krmcgough@comcast.net)

San Francisco State University  
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