

# San Francisco State University Retirement Association

## *OFF-CAMPUS BULLETIN – February 2012*

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

### **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

*By Tom Spencer*

It was good to see such a large turnout of retired faculty and staff at our annual membership meeting in November. Our guest speaker, Vice President Sue Rosser, updated our members on the campus reorganization of colleges and departments. Board member Richard Giardina graciously agreed to summarize the Vice President's comments for those of you who were not able to attend the luncheon (see article in this *Bulletin*).

The Vice President addressed another issue as well which has immediate importance for our campus i.e., the CSU trustees' policy for presidential searches. VP Rosser reported that the selection process is likely to be less transparent than in the past including not having candidates' names announced nor having the candidates themselves make public visits to campus. It would seem to me that these types of changes in the search processes would be particularly dispiriting to faculty, staff, and students at a time when trustees are also approving large executive salary increases while cutting classes and raising tuition.

While some of you remain acutely interested in the politics of the campus and the CSU, others have commented to me that retirement for them means freedom from politics. For those of you who are of this mind, you might enjoy the Tiburon article in this *Bulletin*. Many thanks to Meredith Eliassen (Library) and to Toby Garfield (Tiburon Director) for their good work in putting this history article together.

Our next scheduled membership event will be our St. Patrick's luncheon to be held at the Basque Cultural Center on March 15<sup>th</sup>. See announcement of the luncheon later in this *Bulletin*. Make your reservation SOON so we can plan accordingly. See you there.



**Sue Rosser, Provost and Vice President**

## **PROVOST ROSSER SPEAKS TO RETIREES**

*By Richard Giardina*

### *(REORGANIZATION AND PRESIDENTIAL SEARCHES)*

"I may be joining you sooner than you might imagine," joked Dr. Sue Rosser, SFSU's provost and vice president for academic affairs, as she bemoaned the CSU financial situation with a group of 70 retirees at the annual meeting and luncheon of the San Francisco State University Retirement Association held at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco.

## MORE ON ROSSER

It was of course impossible for her not to mention budgetary challenges as an underlying cause of the university's decision to reorganize its collegiate structure.

According to Rosser, the university's basic reorganization plan to consolidate eight colleges into six was presented to the campus in January 2011 by a University Planning Advisory Committee [UPAC] that had been established by President Corrigan. The plan, with its various options, was voted on in a faculty referendum, with no option receiving a resounding stamp of approval. A second referendum on a modified plan attained a 63% approval rating, and the plan was accepted by the president. It called for the establishment of a "giant" new college provisionally being called "Arts and Humanities." This new college contains all of the departments of the original College of Humanities, plus all of the departments of the original College of Creative Arts, as well as four departments from the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences [BSS]. The second college includes the original College of Business plus the Economics and Labor Studies Programs. The third college is a streamlined and solely "Graduate" College of Education. The fourth is an unchanged College of Ethnic Studies. The fifth is the present College of Health and Human Services, which has added a number of programs from BSS. Within this fifth college, it is anticipated that a School of Public Affairs and Civic Engagement will be created. The sixth is the present College of Science and Engineering, which has added two departments from BSS—Geography and Human Environmental Studies and Psychology.

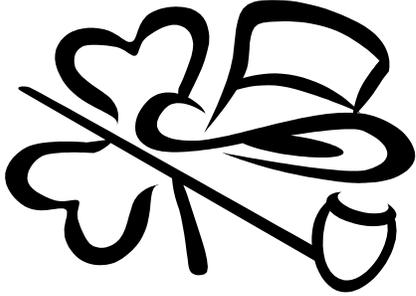
UPAC suggested that departments with fewer than ten tenured/tenure-track faculty consider finding a partner with which to merge. Discussions in this regard are being held across campus, though with programs generally wanting to consider administrative mergers while maintaining their own programmatic independence.

Dr. Rosser went on to provide a litany of achievements on the part of faculty and programs in the areas of teaching, research, and service and to mention a number of administrative changes, the foremost of which being the planned retirement of the president at the end of the 2011-2012 academic year. Then in response to a question by Dick Axen regarding the presidential search process, she indicated that the CSU trustees had established a committee to review both presidential compensation and the processes used in the presidential searches themselves. Though there is no clarity yet regarding either, one possibility is that there will be more candidates from inside the CSU and another is that there will be less transparency in the process, including not having candidates' names announced nor having the candidates themselves make public visits to campus. Concluded Dr. Rosser, "the campuses are not happy."



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ST. Patricks Annual Luncheon



When: March 15, 2012  
Time: 11:30 a.m.  
Where: Basque Cultural Center  
599 Railroad Avenue  
South San Francisco, CA 94080  
RSVP: See attached flyer.

## SAN FRANCISCO STATE'S HISTORY CORNER

*By Meredith Eliassen and  
Toby Garfield, Tiburon  
Director*



### *SAN FRANCISCO STATE'S HISTORY CORNER*

#### Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies

The location for San Francisco State University's Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies has a long history. Prior to 1830, the Miwok "Coon Tribe" occupied this land. Between 1834 and 1884, it was documented as a Spanish land grant. Between 1877 and 1904 the Lynde and Hough Company established a cod drying plant on the property. The federal government purchased the property and used it as a Navy coaling station from 1904 to 1931.

The State of California leased the land for California Nautical School (California Maritime Academy) from 1931 to 1940. The U.S. Navy re-occupied the land to be utilized as a submarine net depot from 1940 to 1958. The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife acquired the land in 1961 and established Sport Fish Research Laboratory. In 1963 the Marine Minerals Technology Center, Department of Interior Bureau of Mines joined the Tiburon Marine Laboratory. In 1970 both the Marine Minerals Technology Center and Tiburon Marine Laboratory were transferred to the new Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Laboratory's scope broadened to include commercial fishery research. In 1975, a portion of the property (approximately 25 acres) was turned over to the General Services Administration as excess property.

The Romberg Tiburon Center along with the Bay Conference Center, established in 1978, is San Francisco State University's marine field station located 20 miles north of San Francisco on the Tiburon Peninsula. The Center is the only academic research facility located on one of the largest estuaries on the West Coast of the United States. It serves as a multidisciplinary instructional and research facility for the study of the San Francisco Bay and the central California coast. Graduate and undergraduate courses as well as field programs are offered in marine and estuarine science focusing on wetlands, planktonic and benthic organisms, along with chemistry, geochemistry, and microbiology of estuaries and coastal waters.

On July 25, 1983, the Tiburon Center was renamed after Paul F. Romberg. Romberg was a specialist in botany and genetics, and taught biology in the Midwest before joining the California State University System as an administrator in 1961. Romberg became the thirteenth president of San Francisco State University in 1973, and masterminded the construction of a two-building Science Complex on campus and established a long-range planning commission that produced a 10 year plan for the University. Although he is remembered as a scholar and an heroic World War II fighter pilot, Romberg was most proud of his role in acquiring the federal site in Tiburon for San Francisco State University. The University purchased the property (worth \$2 million in 1973) for a token \$1 bill. Dr. Erwin Seibel served as the Center's first director. Upon his retirement in 1983, Romberg devoted much of his time to developing the facility. On May 5, 1985, the Paul F. Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies was dedicated shortly after his death. President Ronald Reagan sent Rose Romberg a letter stating, "San Francisco, the Golden State, and America as a whole were greatly enriched by Romberg and his life's work." A scholarship was established in his name, and his widow Rose Romberg carried on his vision until her death in 2000.

(Thanks to Meredith Eliassen, Library and Toby Garfield, Tiburon Director)



## **DUES REMINDER** (and other information)

Unless you've already paid, or are a life member, your \$20 annual dues for 2012 are now due. Your dues paying status is shown on the top line of the mailing label. "Life" indicates you are a lifetime member; a number indicates the last calendar year you paid annual dues (e.g. "11" means 2011). We are very much in need of your support to make our programs and activities a success. If you have any questions about your dues status, you may contact Treasurer Jim Van Ness at (650) 873-4035 or by email at: [jnavn@comcast.net](mailto:jnavn@comcast.net)

If you have recently changed your address, phone number, or email address, please provide the new information on the below form and mail to Jim Van Ness, or send an email to [jnavn@comcast.net](mailto:jnavn@comcast.net), so we can keep our membership records current.

If you would like to receive SFSU's weekly *CampusMemo* by email, please complete the form below and provide your email address to Jim Van Ness -- by mail (address below), or send an email to: [jnavn@comcast.net](mailto:jnavn@comcast.net)

We are considering distributing our newsletter, the *Off-Campus Bulletin*, by email as well as by mail. If you would prefer an email instead of the printed version, please complete the form below and provide your email address to Jim Van Ness -- by mail (address below), or send an email to: [jnavn@comcast.net](mailto:jnavn@comcast.net)

If you wish to make a donation to our Endowment Fund (to fund future faculty and staff travel/professional development grants), please write a separate check and mail with the below form.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive SFSU's weekly *CampusMemo* by email? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you prefer to receive the *Off-Campus Bulletin* by email? \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_ \$20 Annual dues for 2012 \_\_\_ \$100 Life membership

Contribution to Endowment Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Please write separate check)

Please make check(s) payable to: **SFSU Retirement Association**

And mail to: **Jim Van Ness, 922 Evergreen Way, Millbrae, CA 94030**

SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON AT  
THE BASQUE CULTURAL CENTER

Please join the San Francisco State University Retirement Association on Thursday, March 15, 2012 for our annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon at the Basque Cultural Center. It's a time to celebrate the holiday and catch up with our colleagues.

**Luncheon will be held on Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at the Basque Cultural Center.**

***BAR OPENS AT 11:30 AM; LUNCH IS SERVED AT 12:00 PM***

Luncheon will be held at The Basque Cultural Center, 599 Railroad Avenue, South San Francisco, CA 94080-3450. Indicate a meal choice for each guest. Entrée, coffee and dessert are included in the lunch price.

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	Self	Guest 2	Guest 3	Guest 4
Chicken Plate	___	___	___	___
Corned Beef Plate	___	___	___	___
Vegetarian Pasta	___	___	___	___

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Send a check, made out to "**SFSU Retirement Association**," for the total amount by March 1<sup>st</sup> to:  
**Ms. Yolanda Thompson, 156 Lunado Court, San Francisco, CA 94127, (415) 334-1130.**



Reservations due March 1st

St. Patrick's Luncheon



**SFSU Retirement Association**  
San Francisco State University  
c/o Development Office  
1600 Holloway Avenue, ADM 153  
San Francisco, CA 94132  
[www.sfsu.edu/~retire](http://www.sfsu.edu/~retire)

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*Dan Buttlair*  
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*Ilza Goodfield (UWA Rep)*  
*Larry Ianni (ERFA Rep)*  
*Bernice Lawry*  
*Grace Robinson*  
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